TOKYOPOP
BLADE OF HEAVEN
3
ART BY
KYUNG-IL YANG
STORY BY
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The battle against the evil Barurugo and his twisted lackey, Darkling, reaches bloody heights! Doksooma and the valiant Makumrang do their best against the grotesque Darkling in a pitched fight to the death! Meanwhile, Gen. Winter, Fat Ninja and Soma desperately struggle to bring down the seemingly unstoppable Barurugo. And just at the moment when all seems lost for our heroes, Gen. Summer (a.k.a. Granny) swoops in with the journal of the Blade of Heaven!

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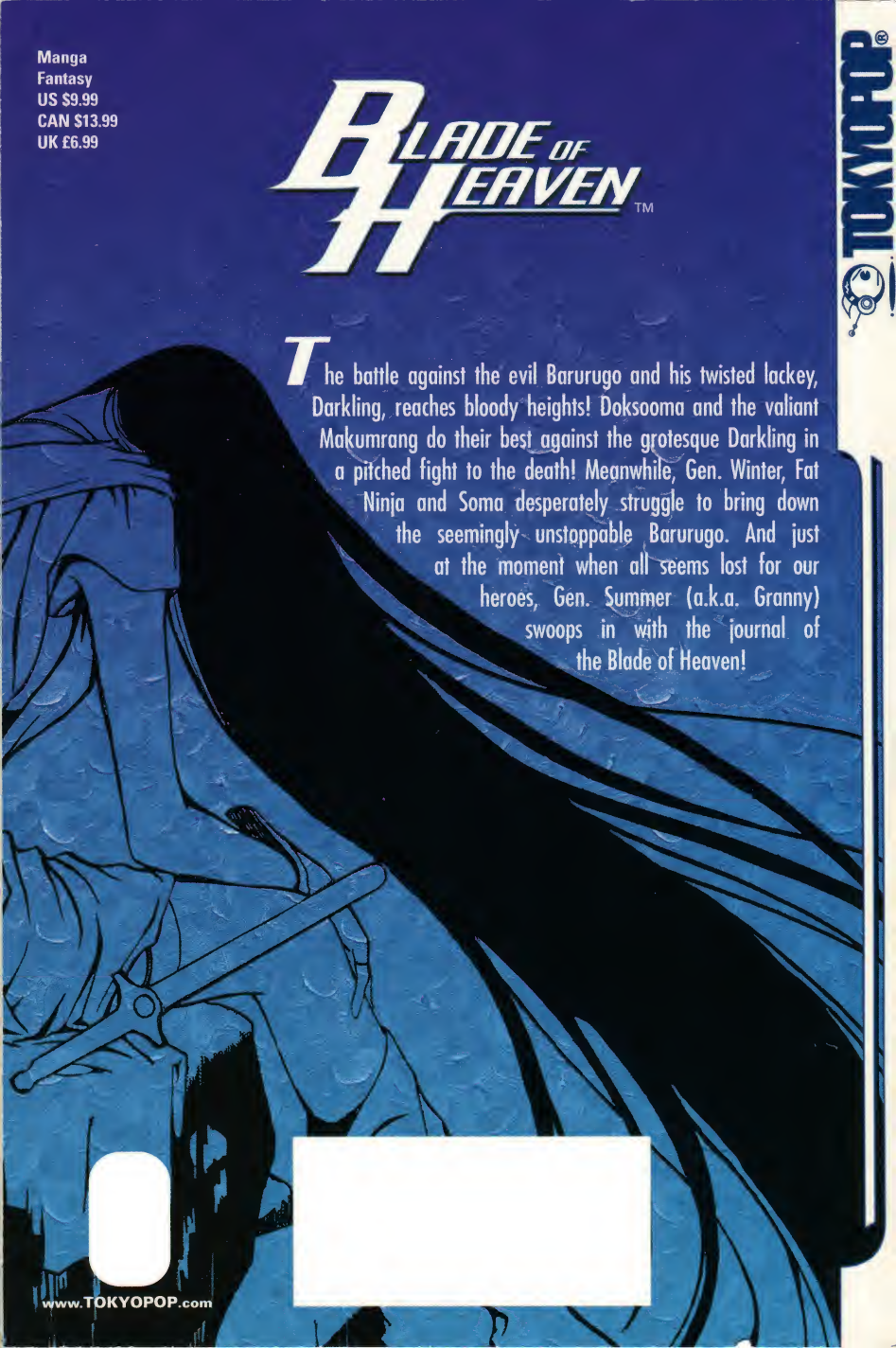

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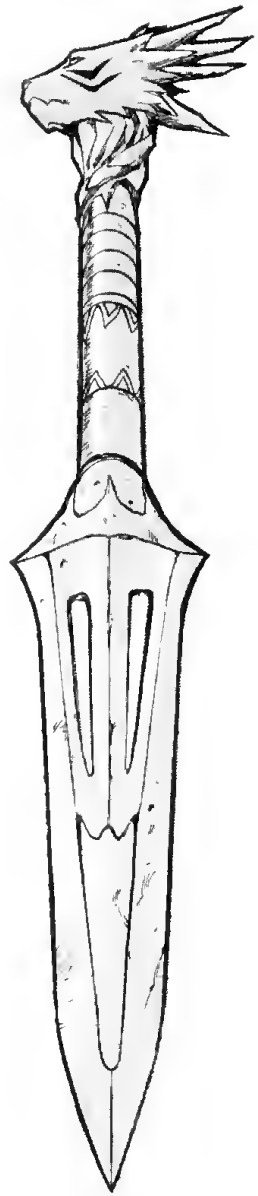
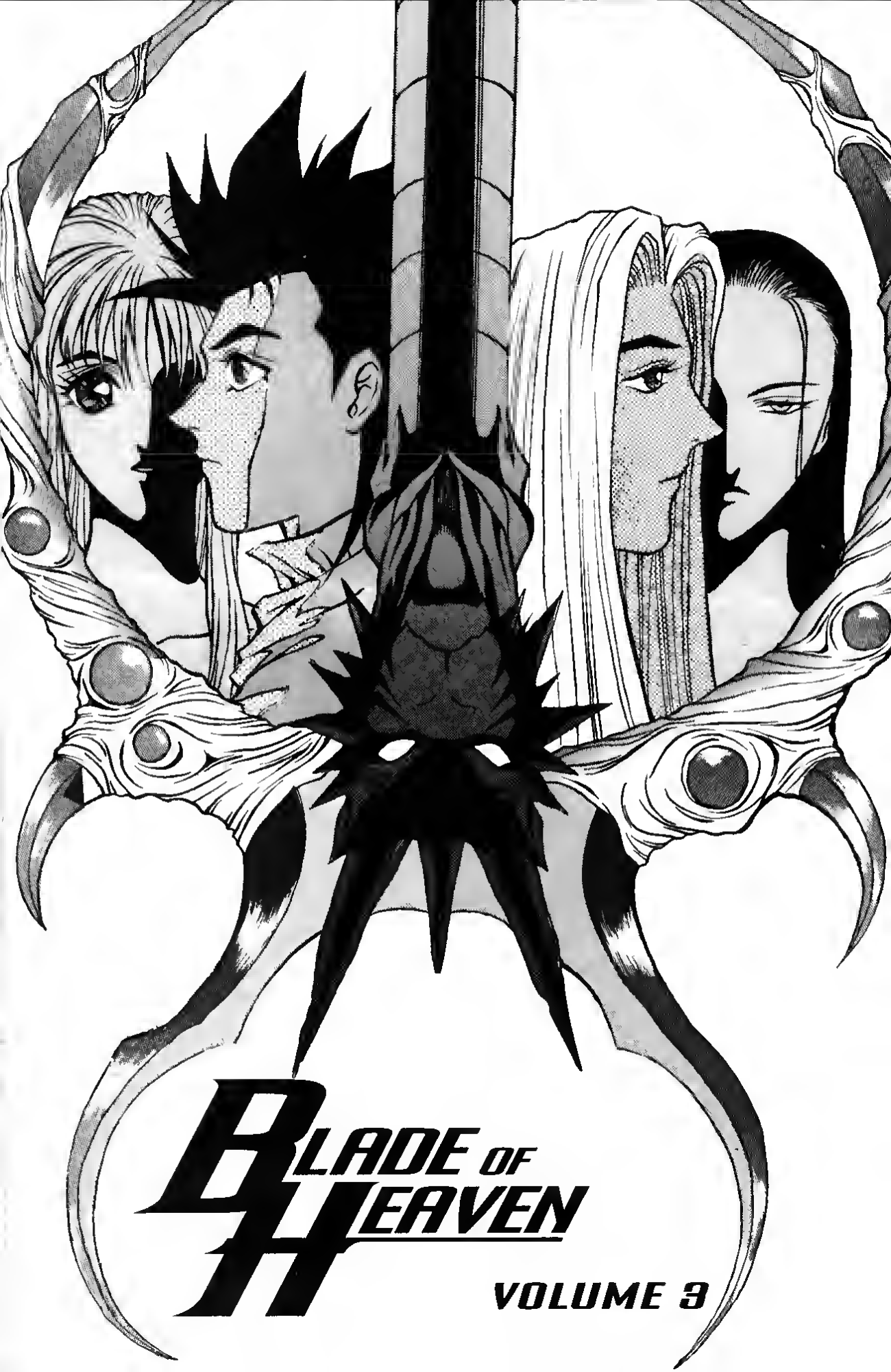


## PREVIOUSLY IN

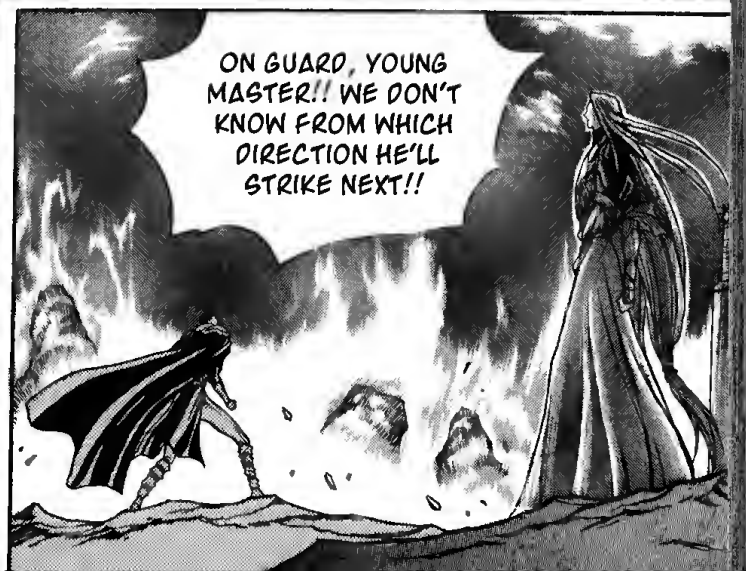
# BLADE OF HEAVEN

AS PUNISHMENT FOR STEALING THE BLADE OF HEAVEN, SOMA IS SENTENCED TO ESCORT THE HEAVENLY PRINCESS, AROOMEE AROUND THE MORTAL REALM. GETTING WIND OF THE BLADE'S DISAPPEARANCE, THE DEMON BARURUGO LAUNCHES AN ATTACK ON HEAVEN. MEANWHILE, EVEN AS MAKUMARNG, THE DISENCHANTED HEIR TO HELL'S THRONE, JOINS SOMA AND HIS RAG-TAG GROUP, THE KING OF HEAVEN TRAPS BARURUGO AND HIS MARAUDING MINIONS WITHIN THE GATES OF HEAVEN.

BUT WHEN THE PRINCESS COMES TO HER FATHER'S AID, SHE INADVERTENTLY FREES BARURUGO, WHO CAPTURES HER AND BEN. WINTER, PROMPTING SOMA TO CHARGE TO HIS NEWFOUND FRIENDS' RESCUE.


BLADE OF HEAVEN
VOLUME 3

Darkling Ryubeg: A technique that enables Darkling to shape-shift. Only he is able to perform this technique.



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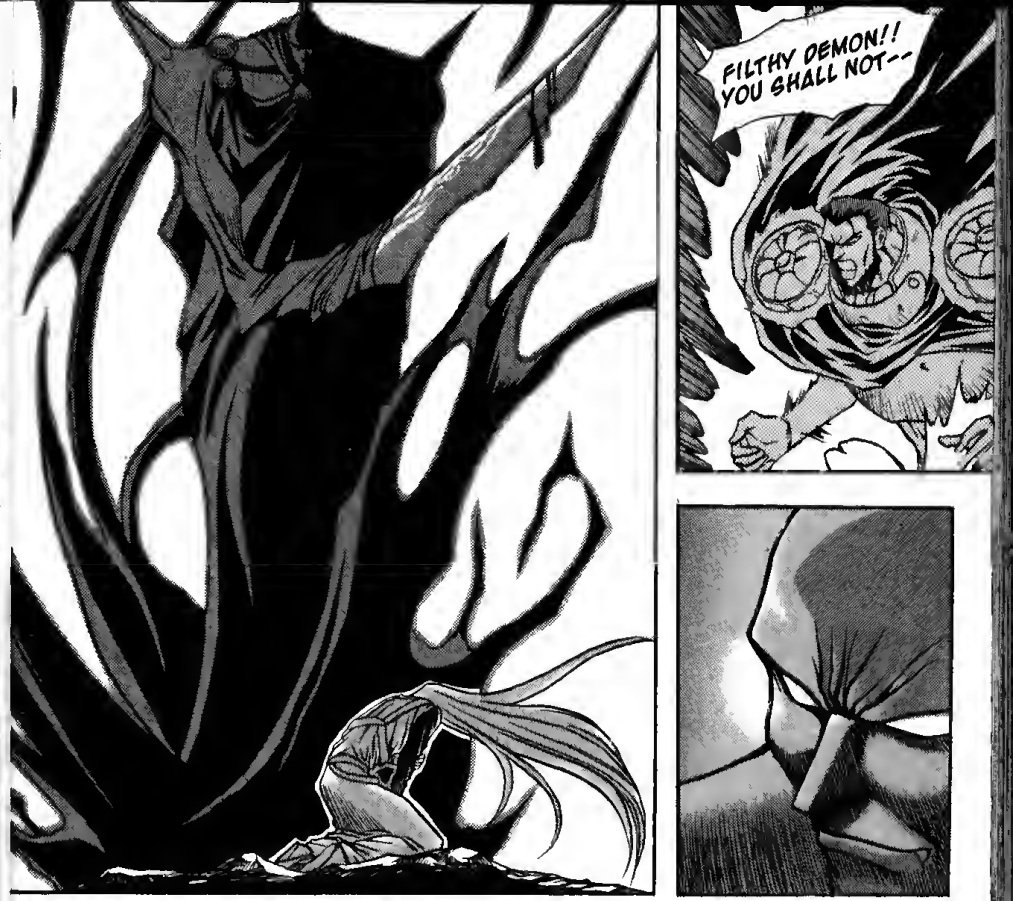
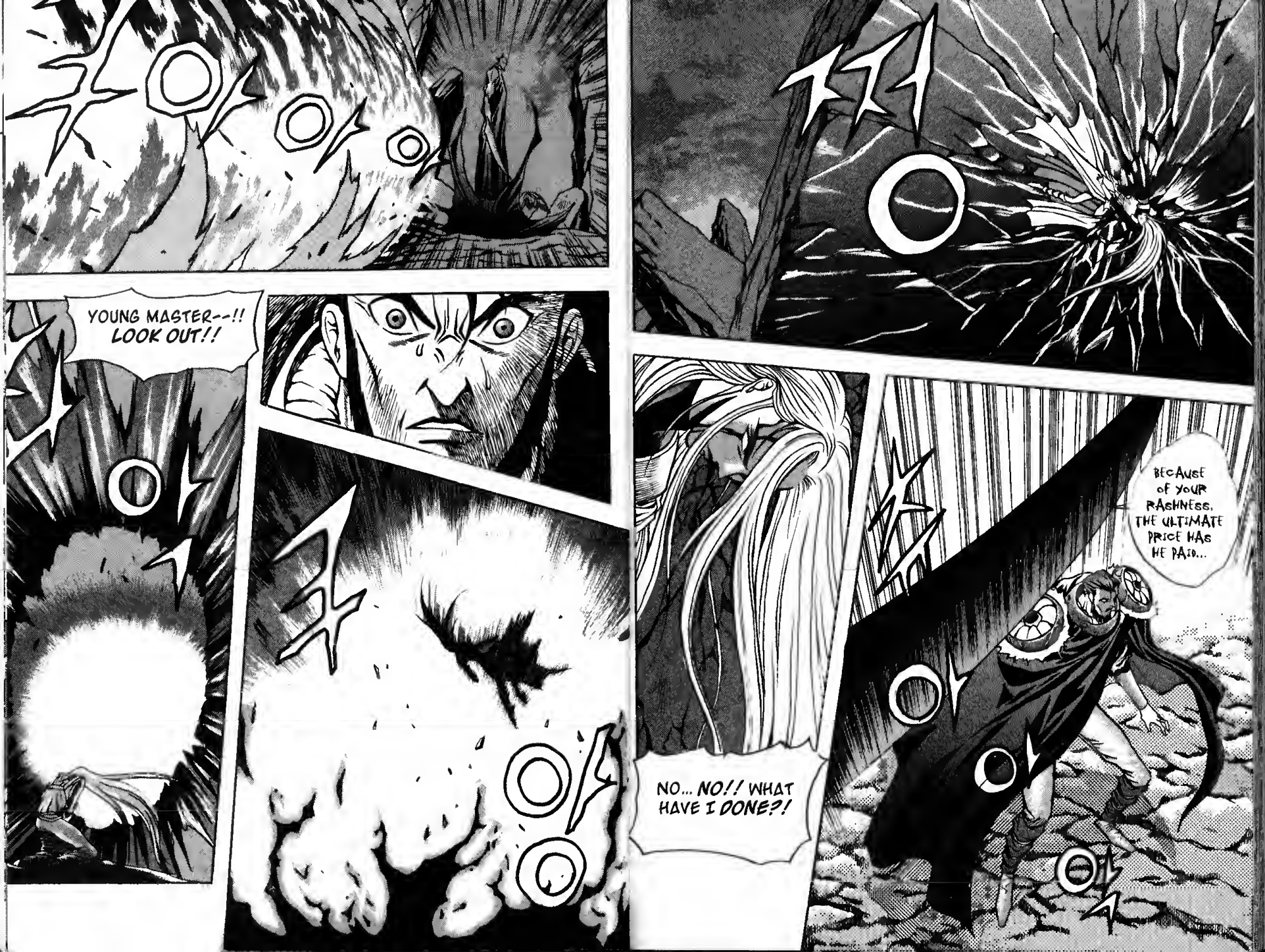
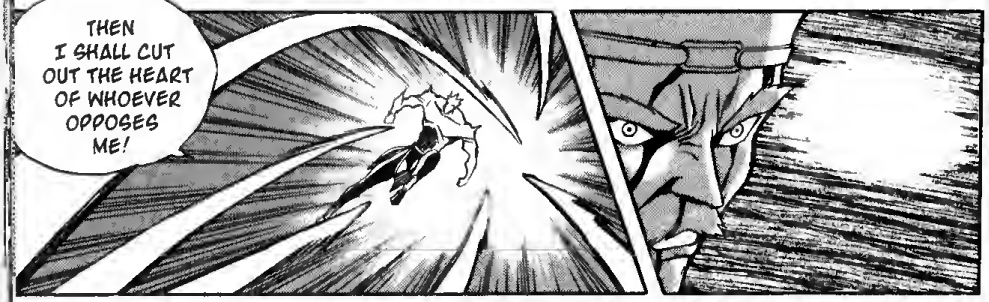

FILTHY DEMON!!
YOU SHALL NOT--

--TOUCH HIM AGAIN!!

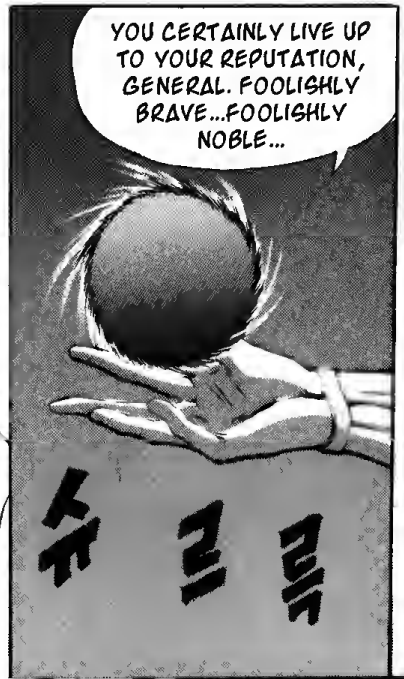

YOUNG MASTER--!!
LOOK OUT!!
NO... NO!! WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
BECAUSE OF YOUR RASHNESS, THE ULTIMATE PRICE HAS BE PAID...

...SO NOW IT WILL BE YOU WHO SUFFERS THE STING OF MY BLADE!!
WITH...WITH MY OWN HANDS...
...HE...HE WAS LIKE A SON TO ME...
I'VE KILLED...MY...SON...

CRETINS! ONLY NOW, AT THE END, DO YOU UNDERSTAND...THE HAND THAT WIELDS THE BLADE RULES ALL REALMS!
AND THAT HAND IS MINE!! ONLY I CAN ACHIEVE WHAT KING PACHUN ACCOMPLISHED-- AND THAT IS TO FULLY REALIZE THE BLADE'S TRUE POWER!! ONLY I POSSESS THE VISION TO USE THE BLADE FOR WHAT IT WAS FORGED-- TO BRING ORDER TO THE REALMS!! AN ORDER UNDER MY RULE!!
THE ONLY "END" WE'RE NEAR IS YOURS, BARURUGO!! I'VE VOWED TO RETRIEVE THE BLADE--AND WILL GLADLY FORFEIT MY LIFE IN DOING SO!!
MIGHTY IMPURE BLOOD ATTACK!!
AH...HOW SWEET.
THE KING'S LOYAL LAPDOG STILL DEFENDS HIS DEAD MASTER.
WRONG, DEMON! MY KING MAY BE DEAD-- BUT HEAVEN LIVES ON!! IT FLOURISHES IN THE ONLY PLACE YOUR PUTRID HANDS CAN'T REACH-- THE HEARTS OF THE PURE AND THE GOOD!!


THEN I SHALL CUT OUT THE HEART OF WHOEVER OPPOSES ME!

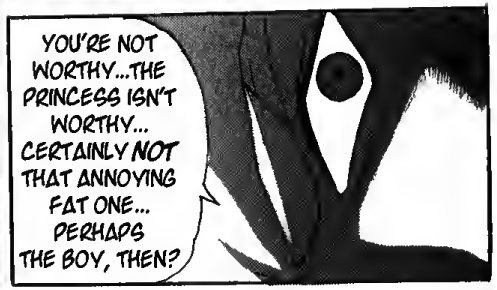
NOT IF I TEAR YOURS OUT FIRST!! NORTHERN SNOW STORM!!

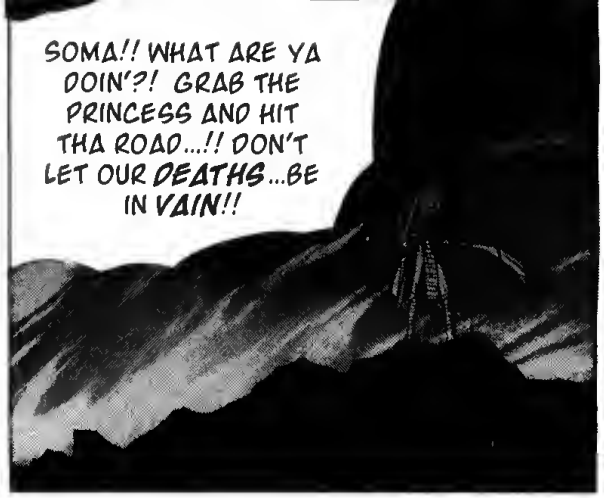

YOU CERTAINLY LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION, GENERAL. FOOLISHLY BRAVE...FOOLISHLY NOBLE...

...AND JUST PLAIN FOOLISH!!

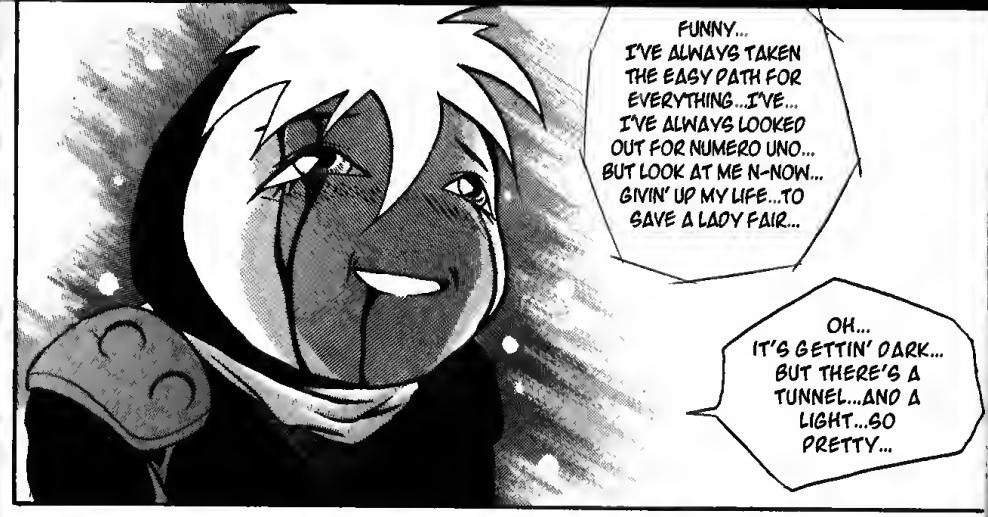
THE FLESH OF A FIRE DEMON IS IMPENETRABLE, OLD MAN!

WHY? WHY DO YOU RESIST SO? YOU SAY I'M NOT WORTHY TO WIELD THE BLADE...BUT IF NOT ME, THEN WHO?

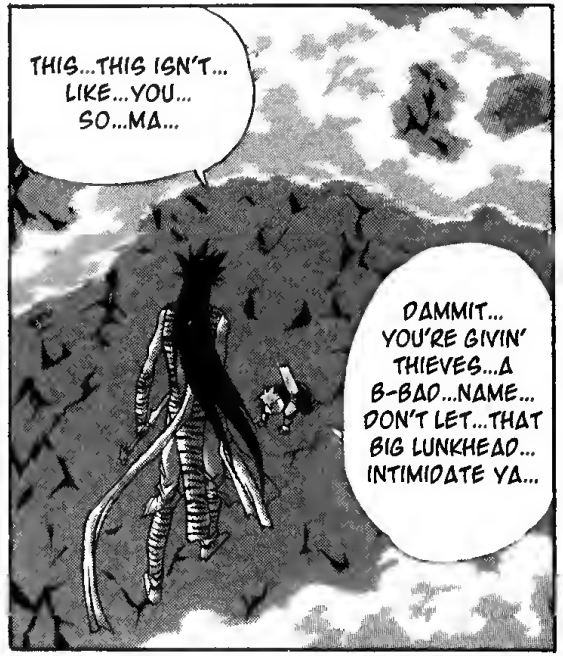

YOU'RE NOT WORTHY...THE PRINCESS ISN'T WORTHY... CERTAINLY NOT THAT ANNOYING FAT ONE... PERHAPS THE BOY, THEN?


SOMA!! WHAT ARE YA DOIN'?! GRAB THE PRINCESS AND HIT THA ROAD...!! DON'T LET OUR DEATHS...BE IN VAIN!!

WAIT... ARE YOU TREMBLING?! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE...SCARED?!


FUNNY... I'VE ALWAYS TAKEN THE EASY PATH FOR EVERYTHING...I'VE... I'VE ALWAYS LOOKED OUT FOR NUMERO UNO... BUT LOOK AT ME N-NOW... GIVIN' UP MY LIFE...TO SAVE A LADY FAIR...
OH... IT'S GETTIN' DARK... BUT THERE'S A TUNNEL...AND A LIGHT...SO PRETTY...

S-SOMA...

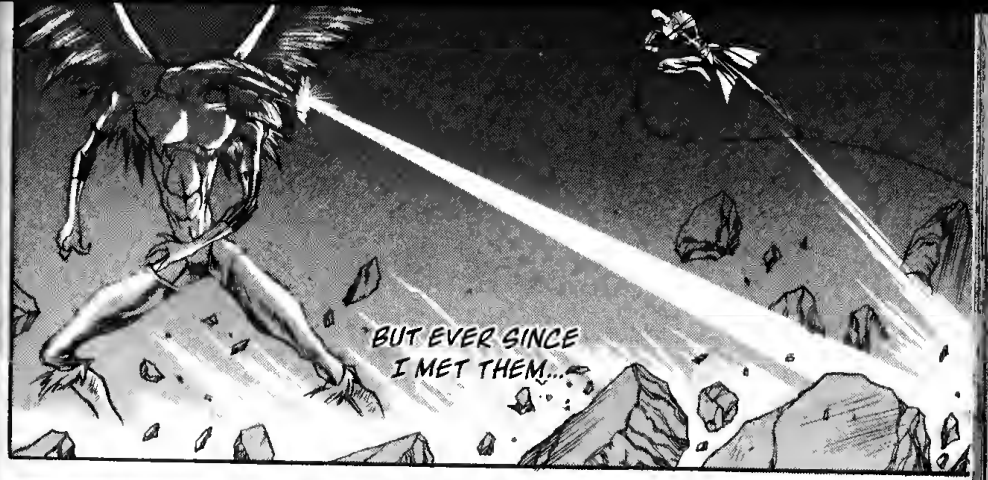

THIS...THIS ISN'T... LIKE...YOU... SO...MA...
DAMMIT... YOU'RE GIVIN' THIEVES...A B-BAD...NAME... DON'T LET...THAT BIG LUNKHEAD... INTIMIDATE YA...

PLEASE. GET OVER YOURSELF.
AND PUT A LID ON THE DRAMATIC PAUSES, WILL YA? SOMEONE'S GONNA DIE, ALL RIGHT...

...AND I'M LOOKIN' AT 'IM RIGHT NOW!!
BUT... MY DEATH SCENE...

EYAAAARRRGH!!
RUNNING'S FOR COWARDS AND NOSES!!
BONEHEADED KID!! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! AS LONG AS THE SEAL ON THE BLADE REMAINS INTACT HE CAN'T BE DEFEATED!! JUST TAKE THE PRINCESS AND RUN!!
THIS CREEP'S GOIN' DOWN!!

I CAN'T LET THEM DIE!!


BUT EVER SINCE I MET THEM...

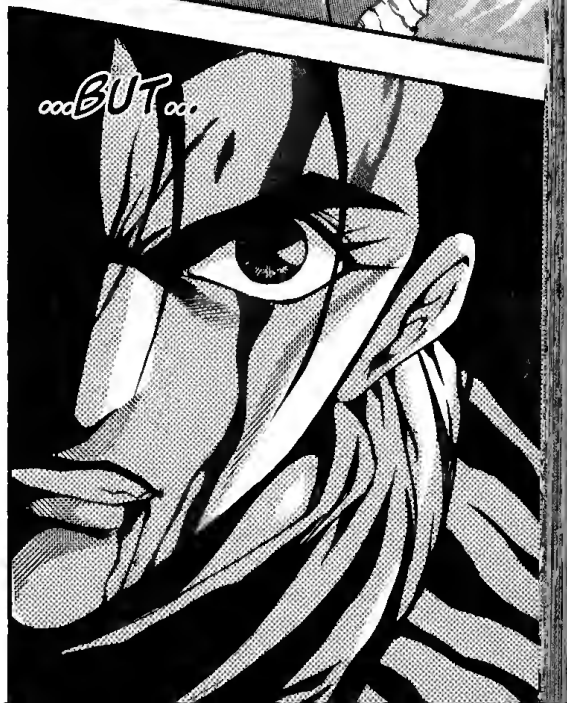
UP UNTIL NOW, I HAVEN'T CARED ABOUT ANYONE BUT MYSELF...

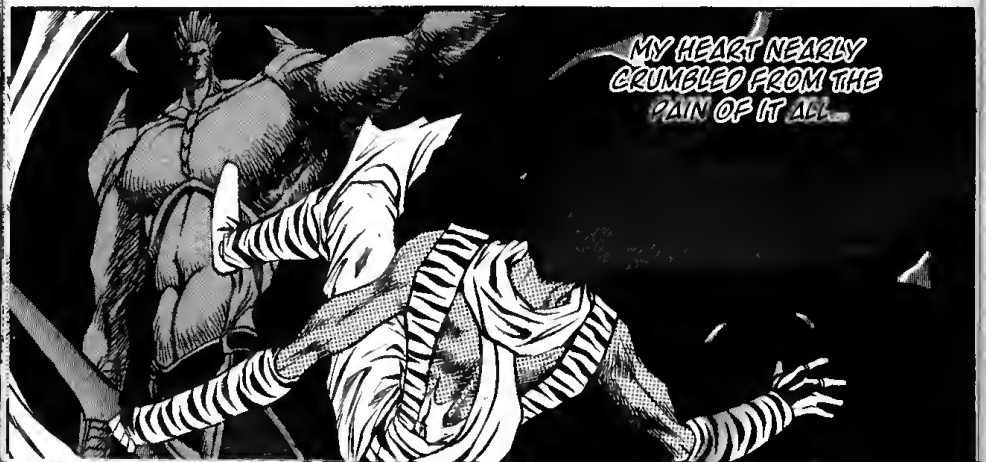
EVERYONE I EVER LOVED LEFT ME... MY FATHER DESERTED ME...

...MY MOTHER DIED...AND I COULD DO NOTHING TO STOP ANY OF IT...!

...EVER SINCE I'VE MET HER...

...I FINALLY HAVE A PURPOSE IN LIFE! I COULDN'T SAVE YOU, MOTHER...


...BUT...


MY HEART NEARLY CRUMBLED FROM THE PAIN OF IT ALL...

...I CAN SAVE HER!!
NAILED 'IM!!
I...I GOT HIM... RIGHT IN HIS... BLACK...HEART...
IMPRESSIVE. YOUR RECKLESS ABANDONMENT HAS MADE YOU QUITE FORMIDABLE. AGAINST A LESSER FOE, THAT SURELY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE KILLING BLOW.
UNFOR-TUNATELY FOR YOU... THAT FOE IS NOT HERE.

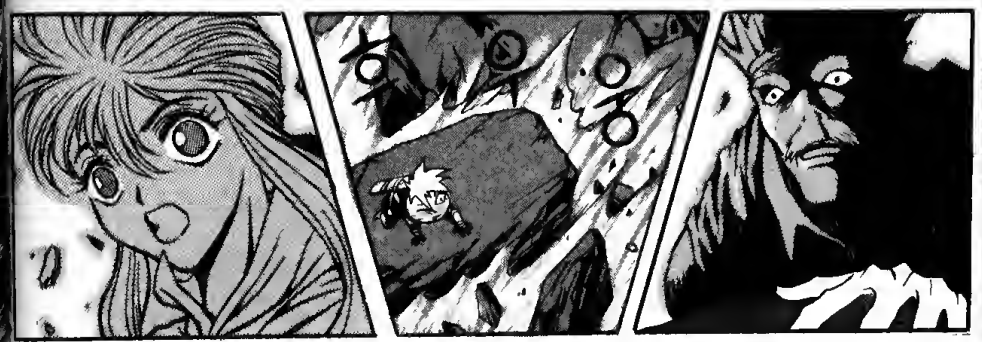
THE GENERAL WAS RIGHT, YOU KNOW. WITH THE BLADE'S SEAL INTACT, IT IS AS MENACING AS A SPLINTER OR PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT BIT OF INFO OVER YOUR SCARY BATTLE CRY?
I'VE GOT YOUR BATTLE CRY RIGHT HERE, PAL!!
SOMA!! NO!!
OBSTINATE WHELP! HE'S LIKE A HAMMER-THICK-HEADED AND POUNDING AWAY MINDLESSLY!
BARURUGO CAN'T BE DEFEATED WITH BRUTE FORCE ALONE!! HE'S MERELY TOYING WITH HIM BEFORE THE KILL!!
AS YOU WISH.

HAS HEAVEN FORSAKEN US...?
AND IF SO, WHY...?
COULD IT BE...COULD IT BE THAT BARURUGO'S RIGHT? HAS FATE CHOSEN HIM TO BE VICTORIOUS?
THE MORTALS...
...THE DENIZENS OF HEAVEN...
...ARE THEY ALL DOOMED?!
NO!! THIS MUST NOT STAND!! MUST...MUST DIG DEEP...!! MUST... FIND THE STRENGTH... TO FIGHT...!!
1
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?! IT'S...IT'S...!
GENERAL!
COULD...IT BE...?

--THE MANLE YOUNGJO!! HEAVEN'S BIRD OF LORE!!
LOOK THERE, BOY--!! IT'S THE CREATURE THAT IS SAID TO HAVE FLOWN 10,000 LEAGUES IN ONE DAY--

NOW IS THAT AN ENTRANCE OR IS THAT AN ENTRANCE?! NEVER FEAR--FOR GENERAL SUMMER, ONE OF THE FOUR GUARDIANS OF HEAVEN AND ENEMY OF DEMON SCUM IS HERE!!
WHERE'S SOMA?!!
SOMA!! WHERE ARE YOU, SONNY?!
GENERAL SUMMER!
AH YES...MANLE YOUNGJO AND GENERAL SUMMER... THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE WHEN HEAVEN IS ON THE BRINK OF ANNIHILATION! HEH HEH...THIS JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER...!
HERE, SOMA-- CATCH!!
IT'S THE BLADE OF HEAVEN JOURNAL! THE SECRET TO AWAKENING IT LIES WITHIN!!
THE SWORD... IT'S RISING BY ITSELF...!!
MY BODY... I-I CAN'T CONTROL IT...!!

INCREDIBLE!!
HE'S CALLING FORTH
THE SECRETS
OF TERRA!!

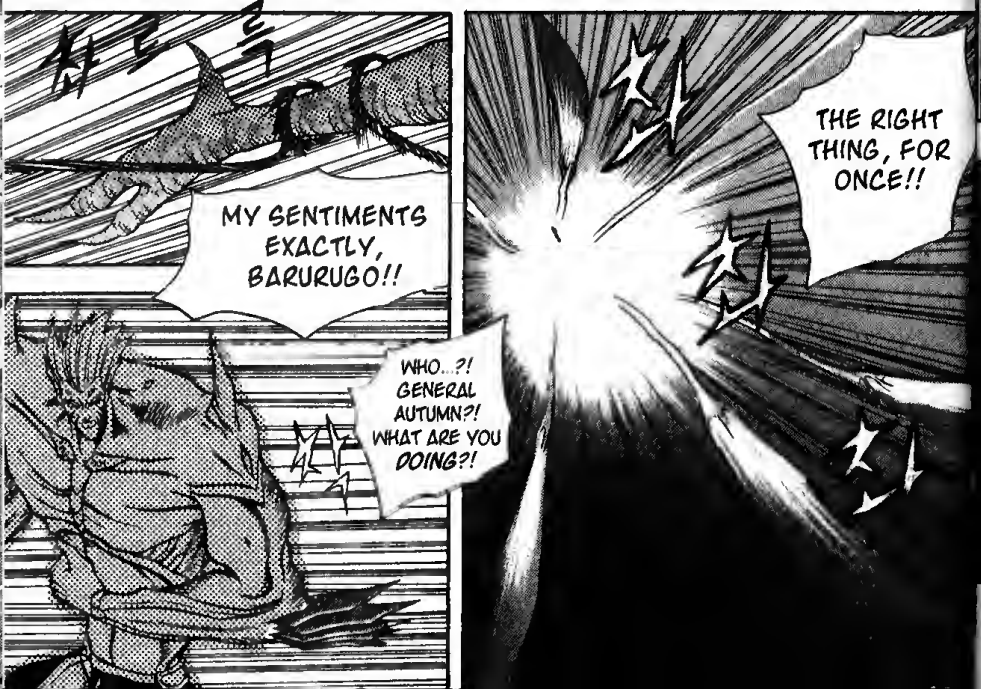


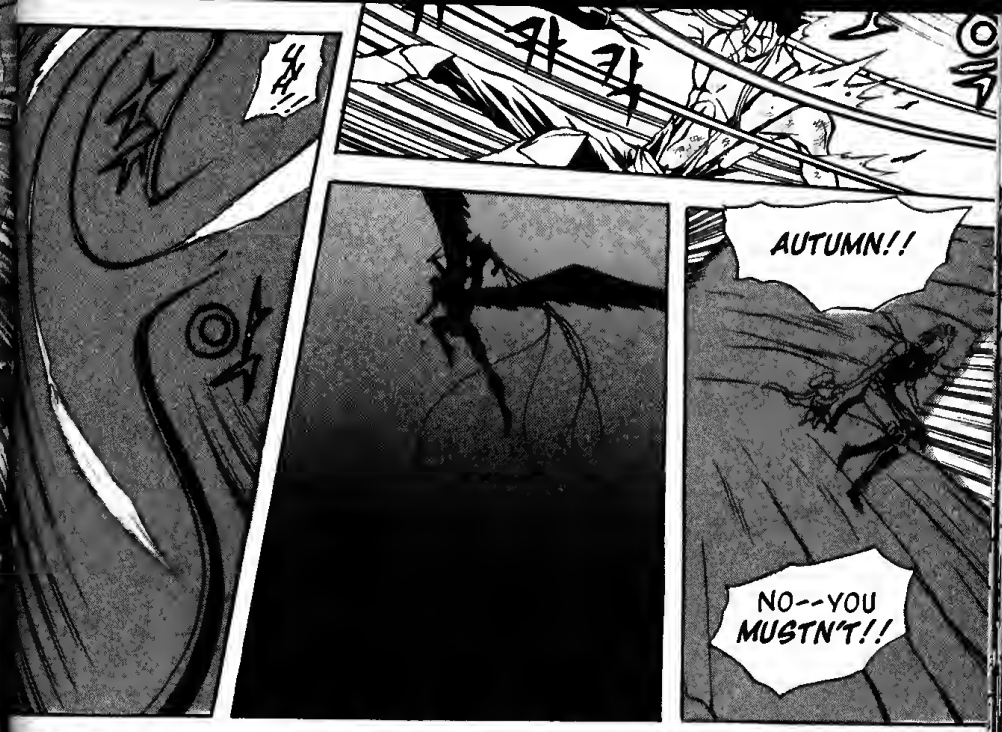
SUCH ENERGY... SUCH STRENGTH...!! I-I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS THIS POWERFUL!!
ECHO!! COME TO THE AID OF YOUR MASTER!!

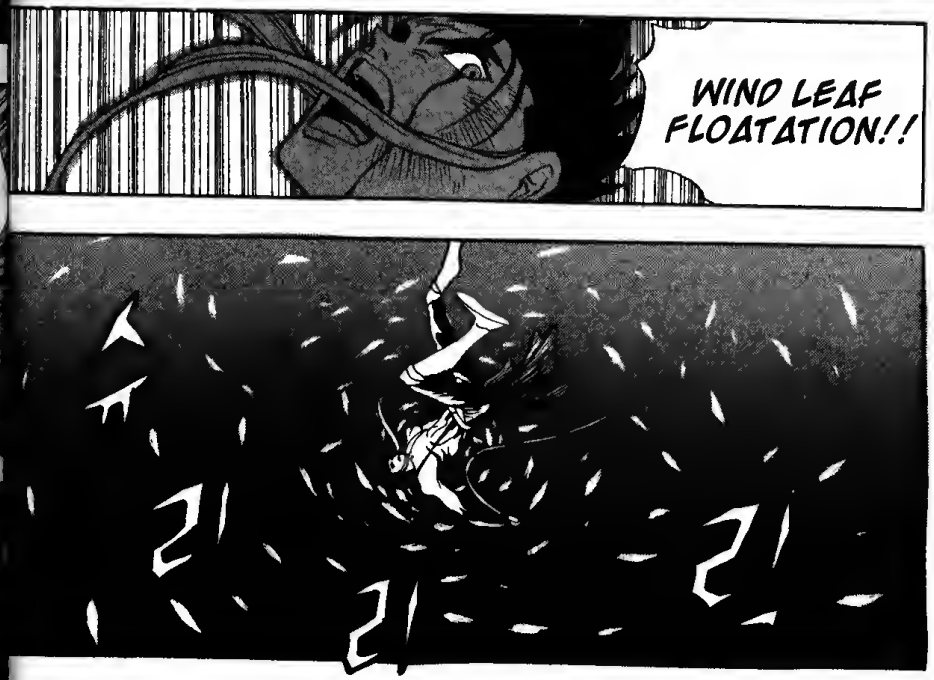
PRINCESS!! TAKE COVER!!
OW! I FELL ON MY SHURIKEN!
SOMA!! ENOUGH, ALREADY!!

GOOD SHOW, SUMMER!!
BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME-- JUST SAVE THE PRINCESS!!
...EXCEPT FOR SOMA. HE'S EXHAUSTED. THE BLADE REALLY TOOK A LOT OUT OF HIM...
WAIT-- WHERE'S AUTUMN?!
HAS ANYONE SEEN AUTUMN?!
RELAX--I'VE ALREADY RESCUED HER! JUST GET YOUR SEXY SELF UP HERE, ALREADY!
YOU DID?! WHERE IS SHE?!
WE'RE ALL FINE...
AUTUMN!!

VERMIN!! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL ESCAPE ME THAT EASILY?!
BE IT HEAVEN OR EARTH, LAND OR SKY--THERE IS NO SAFE HAVEN FROM MY WRATH!!


MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, BARURUGO!!
WHO...?! GENERAL AUTUMN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THE RIGHT THING, FOR ONCE!!


AUTUMN!!
NO--YOU MUSTN'T!!


WIND LEAF FLOATATION!!

HMPH! JUST LIKE YOU PEOPLE TO BRING A LEAF TO A SWORD FIGHT...!
I'VE BEEN BLINDED BY MY SELFISHNESS-- BUT NO MORE!! NOW WE BOTH DIE!!
YES...I, TOO, HAVE BETRAYED HEAVEN...SO IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I PAY FOR MY SINS AS WELL!
HE CAN'T--!! I WON'T ALLOW IT--!! LET GO OF ME!!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?! HE'S SACRIFICING HIS LIFE TO SAVE US!! I CAN'T LET HIM DO IT!!
GENERAL WINTER! YOU KNOW HE CAN'T STOP BARURUGO BY HIMSELF!! HE SHOULON'T HAVE TO CARRY THIS PENANCE ALONE
DO AS YOU MUST.
THANK YOU, GENERAL. I PRAY THAT SOMEDAY OUR DEEDS, IF NOT UNDERSTOOD, WILL STILL BE FORGIVEN.
SPRING!! NO!!

NO!! GENERAL--!! STOP HER!! YOU CAN'T LET HER DO IT!!
I COULDN'T STOP HER IF I WANTED TO...
THEY BOTH NEED ABSOLUTION... VINDICATION... GENERAL WINTER...SPRING... WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU..
I, GENERAL SPRING, ONE OF THE FOUR GUARDIANS OF HEAVEN, WILLINGLY GIVE MY LIFE FOR THEIRS!!
SPRING...? BUT...WHY?
WHETHER IT BE IN LIFE OR DEATH...MY PLACE IS ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE, MY LOVE...
SPRING...
ソリル. ZUI

YES...YES... WE'LL GO TOGETHER!
Fthuuh.
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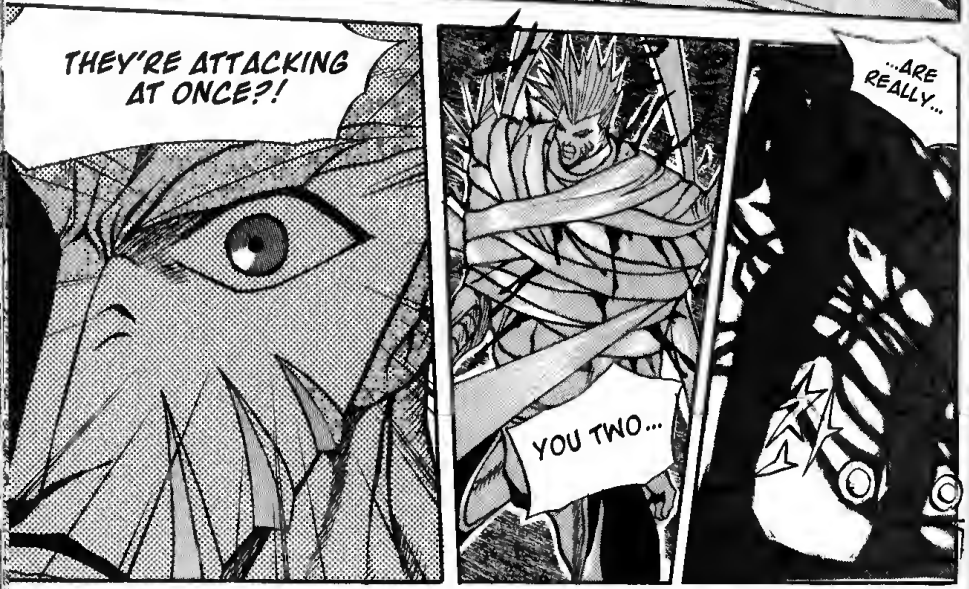

THEY'RE ATTACKING AT ONCE?!
YOU TWO...
...ARE REALLY...

...PISSING ME OFF!!

퍼억

WHOOA...!
HUNH!

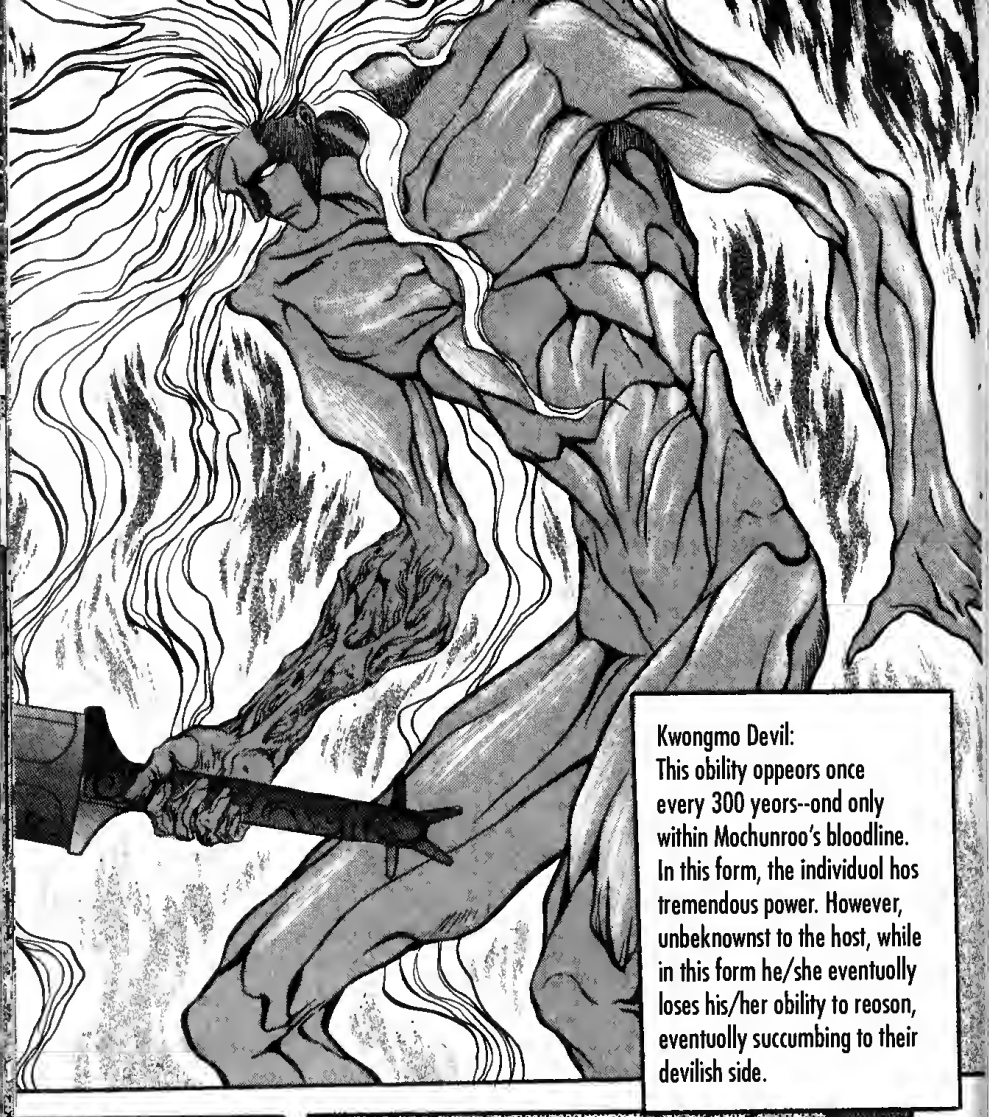
MAYBE NOW...IN THE AFTERLIFE...MY BABY...AND YOU, AUTUMN, MY LOVE...
MAYBE NOW...WE CAN FINALLY BE...A FAMILY...

NOW THAT HURT.
FWOOSH!!
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT... HE'S STILL ALIVE?! UNBELIEV-ABLE!! IS THERE ANY STOPPING HIM?!
IT'S LIKE HE SIPHONS POWER FROM HIS ANGER!!
THEY'RE... GONE...

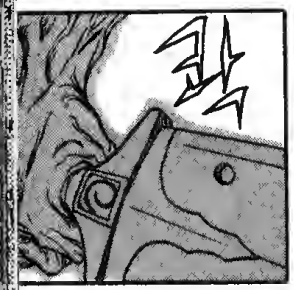
WHAT'S GOING ON?! THE BLADE!! IT'S...HE'S...
SOMA!!
GENERAL! SOMA'S RAGE IS RE-ENERGIZING THE BLADE!!
WE HAVE TO STOP HIM! IF HE CALLS FORTH THE SECRETS OF THE EARTH AGAIN, IT'LL COMPLETELY DRAIN HIS LIFE FORCE! HE'LL BECOME A VEGETABLE--OR WORSE!!
NO!! NOT THIS TIME!!

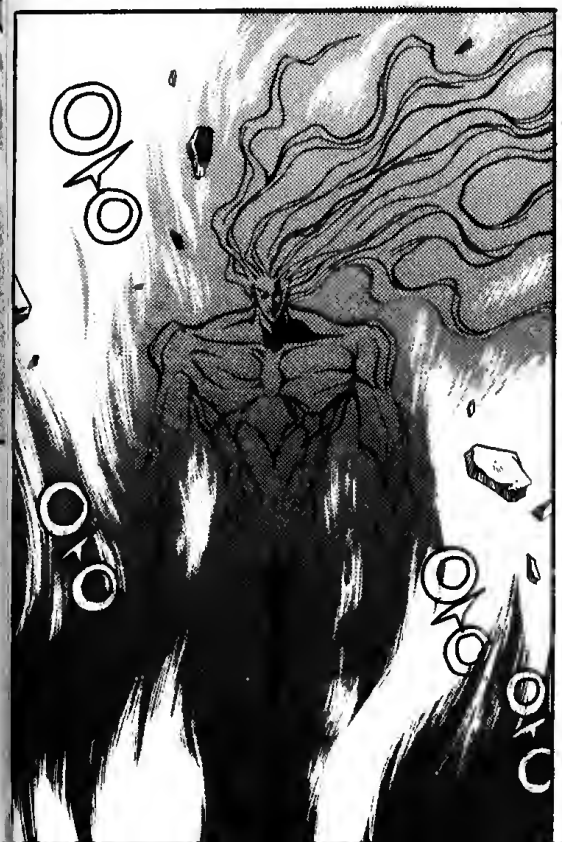
WITH THE SWORD of KWANGMA, LORD BARURUGO'S ASCENSION IS NEARLY WHOLE...As THE RULER of THE THREE REALMS, HE WILL ASSUME HIS DESTINED ROLE!
LO! cAN THIS BE?! ARE MY EYES MISTAKEN?!
THERE EXISTS No FRAGRANCE QUITE AS SWEET AS THE REDOLENCE of ROTTING MEAT
THE SWORD'S OWNER IS CLEARLY DEAD-- BUT HIS SWORD... HIS SWORD AWAKENS!

SUCH A SIGHT TO WITNESS THIS SWORD'S MIGHT...!
!!
ALAS! THE TABLES HAVE TURNED! IT IS NOW I WHO AM IN PERIL -- FOR THE SWORD HAS AWAKENED THE KWANGMA DEVIL!!



Kwongmo Devil:
This obility oppeors once every 300 yeors--ond only within Mochunroo's bloodline. In this form, the individuol hos tremendous power. However, unbeknownst to the host, while in this form he/she eventuolly loses his/her obility to reoson, eventuolly succumbing to their devilish side.

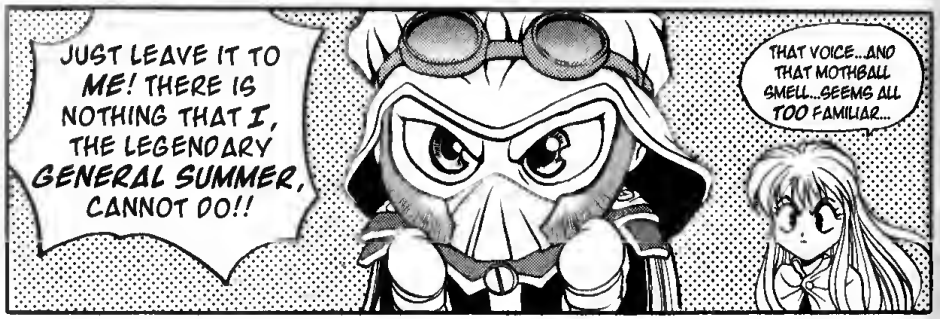


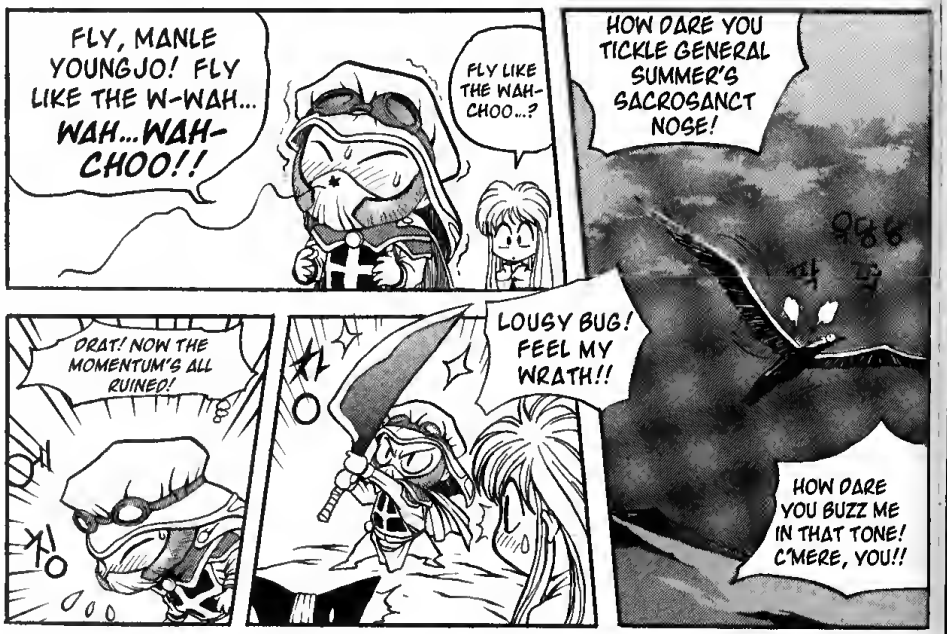


AHH!! D-DARKLING!! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!!
야 야
NOOO!! THE SECRETS OF TERRA HAVE FORMED A LION!! ECHO!! YOU MUST TURN BA--
MY LORD... I AM...OUT of... TIME...FEAR THIS... TO BE...L-LAST... RH--
ARRRGGGH!!

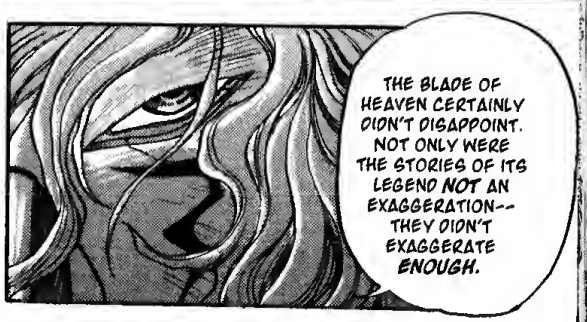
AAAA

SOMA!!
NO! YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH HIM! IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, HIS ENERGY MAY BECOME BLOCKED--AND THEN HE WILL BE IN SOME SERIOUS KA-KA...!
THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!


JUST LEAVE IT TO ME! THERE IS NOTHING THAT I, THE LEGENDARY GENERAL SUMMER, CANNOT DO!!
THAT VOICE...AND THAT MOTHBALL SMELL...SEEMS ALL TOO FAMILIAR...


FLY, MANLE YOUNGJO! FLY LIKE THE W-WAH... WAH...WAH-CHOO!!
FLY LIKE THE WAH-CHOO...?
HOW DARE YOU TICKLE GENERAL SUMMER'S SACROSANCT NOSE!
DRAT! NOW THE MOMENTUM'S ALL RUINED!
LOUSY BUG! FEEL MY WRATH!!
HOW DARE YOU BUZZ ME IN THAT TONE! C'MERE, YOU!!

INCREDIBLE. THEY WERE ACTUALLY ABLE TO DEFEAT BARURUGO IN HIS FIRE DEMON FORM. I GUESS THERE ARE DEFINITELY SOME NEW PLAYERS ON THE BOARD.
KA OH


THE BLADE OF HEAVEN CERTAINLY DIDN'T DISAPPOINT. NOT ONLY WERE THE STORIES OF ITS LEGEND NOT AN EXAGGERATION--THEY DIDN'T EXAGGERATE ENOUGH.

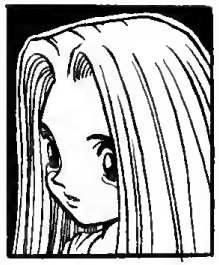
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO STRIKE, THOUGH. IT'S CLEAR THAT MY POWERS NEED TO BE AT THEIR PEAK, FIRST.

TODAY, VICTORY BELONGS TO YOU. TOMMORROW... NOT SO MUCH. FOR I, WULYOHON, WILL BECOME THE NEW MASTER OF THE BLADE!
GO, FORTH, MY DEMON SPIRIT!
I KNEW I SHOULDA PACKED A FLY SWATTER!!
WHEREVER THE BLADE OF HEAVEN GOES-- YOU SHALL FOLLOW!!
DOKSOOMA...MY PROTECTOR...MY TEACHER...MY... SURROGATE FATHER...

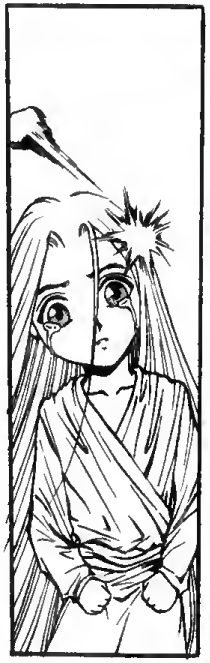
DEATH TO ALL DEMONS!!
UNCLEAN BEAST!! THE DEMON'S OFFSPRING MUST BE DESTROYED !!
FILTHY WHORE!!
SHE WHO LIES DOWN WITH THE DEVIL IS ONE HERSELF!!
SON...
MOMMY...?

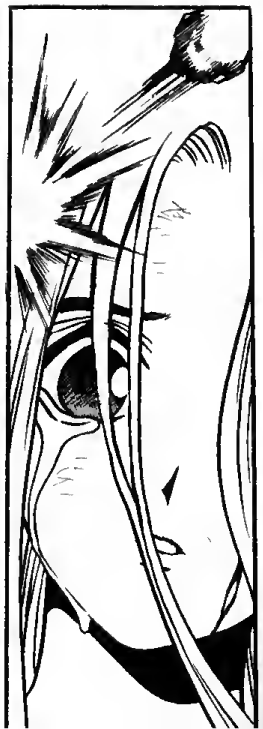
I...I...

Reach



...LOVE...YOU...





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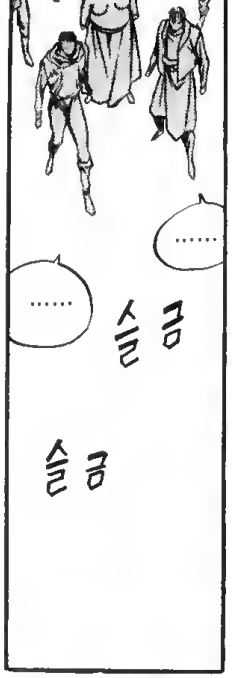
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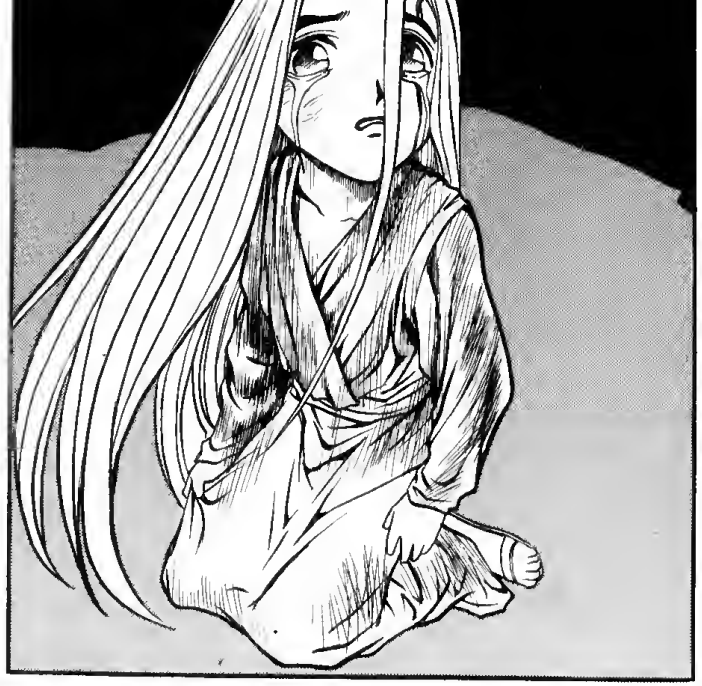
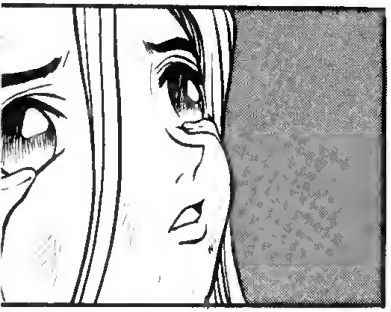
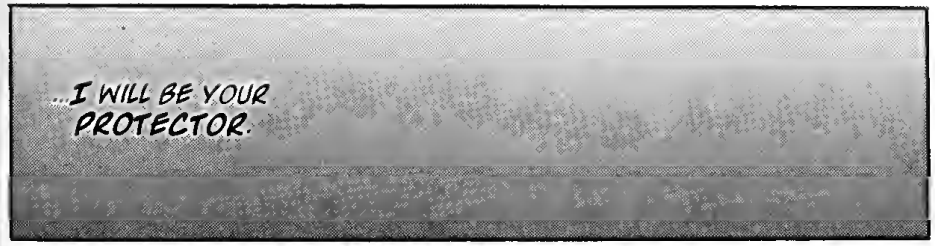


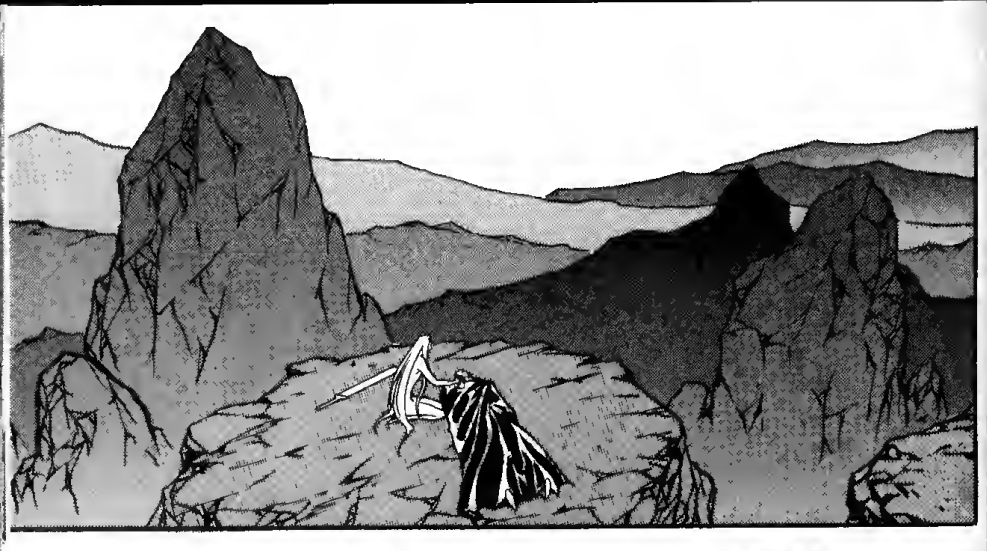
YOUNG MASTER...

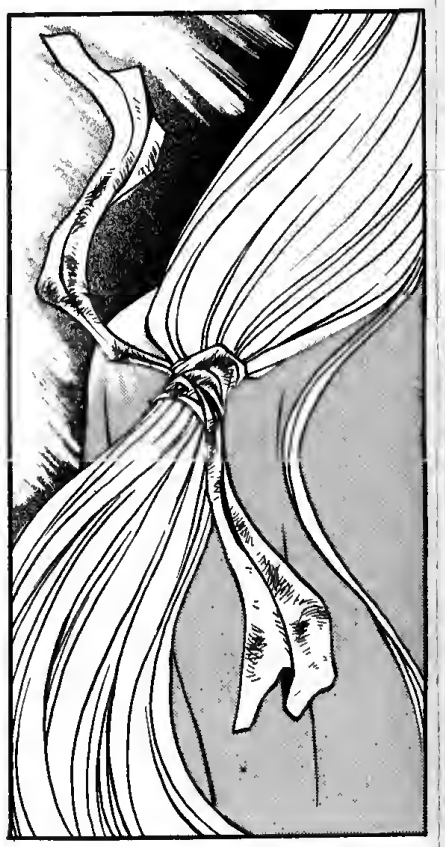


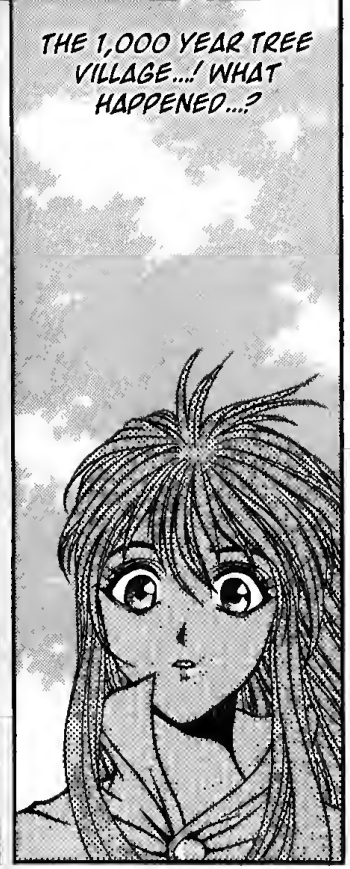
...BE NOT AFRAID.
UNTIL YOU ARE STRONG
ENOUGH TO RETURN TO
MACHUNROO ON YOUR OWN...

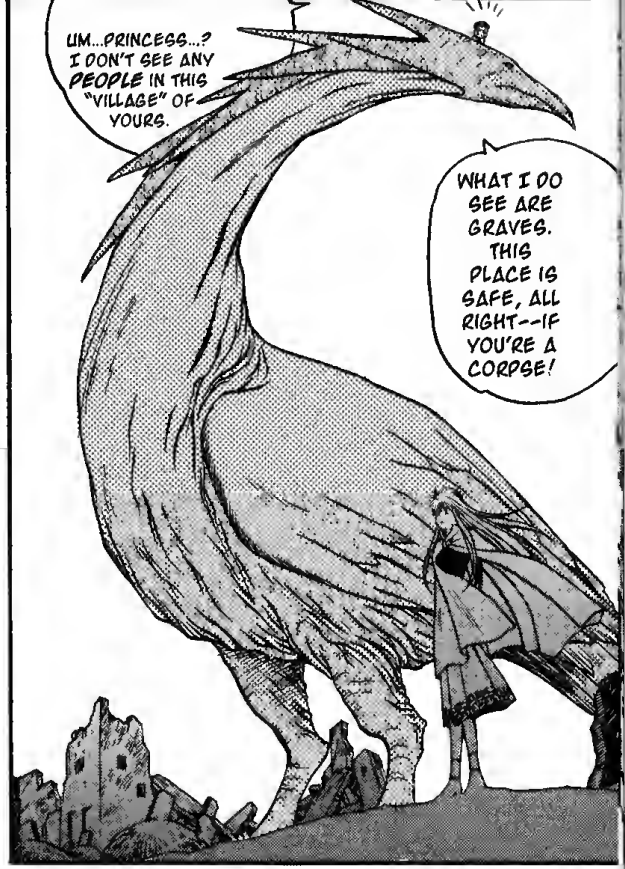

...I WILL BE YOUR
PROTECTOR.

EVEN IN
DEATH...
...I WILL CONTINUE TO
WATCH OVER YOU.

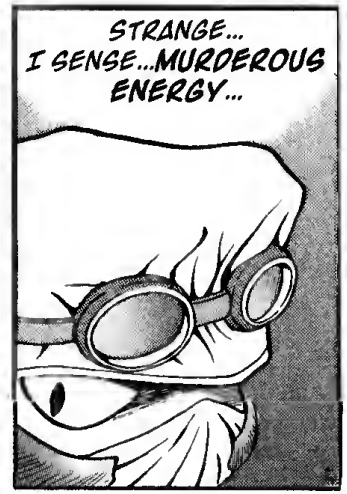


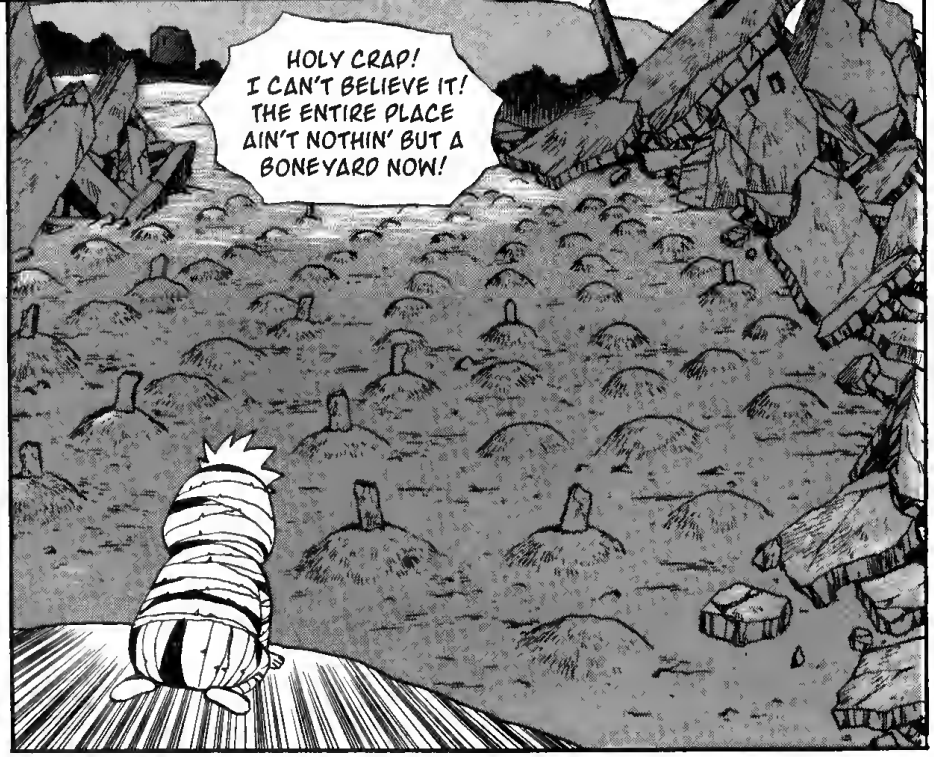



THE 1,000 YEAR TREE VILLAGE....! WHAT HAPPENED...?


UM...PRINCESS...? I DON'T SEE ANY PEOPLE IN THIS "VILLAGE" OF YOURS.
WHAT I DO SEE ARE GRAVES. THIS PLACE IS SAFE, ALL RIGHT--IF YOU'RE A CORPSE!

I SWEAR TO YOU--WHEN WE LEFT HERE LAST, IT WASN'T LIKE THIS! SURE, A FEW HOMES WERE DAMAGED, BUT THAT WAS IT....!


STRANGE... I SENSE...MURDEROUS ENERGY...


HOLY CRAP! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE ENTIRE PLACE AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A BONEYARD NOW!

THEY'RE DEAD.

LOOK! THIS GRAVE...
...BELONGS TO CHAEHA!

THERE IT IS AGAIN...! THAT ENERGY! WHERE IS IT...?
MAYBE HERE...?
OR PERHAPS THERE...?
NO... THERE!

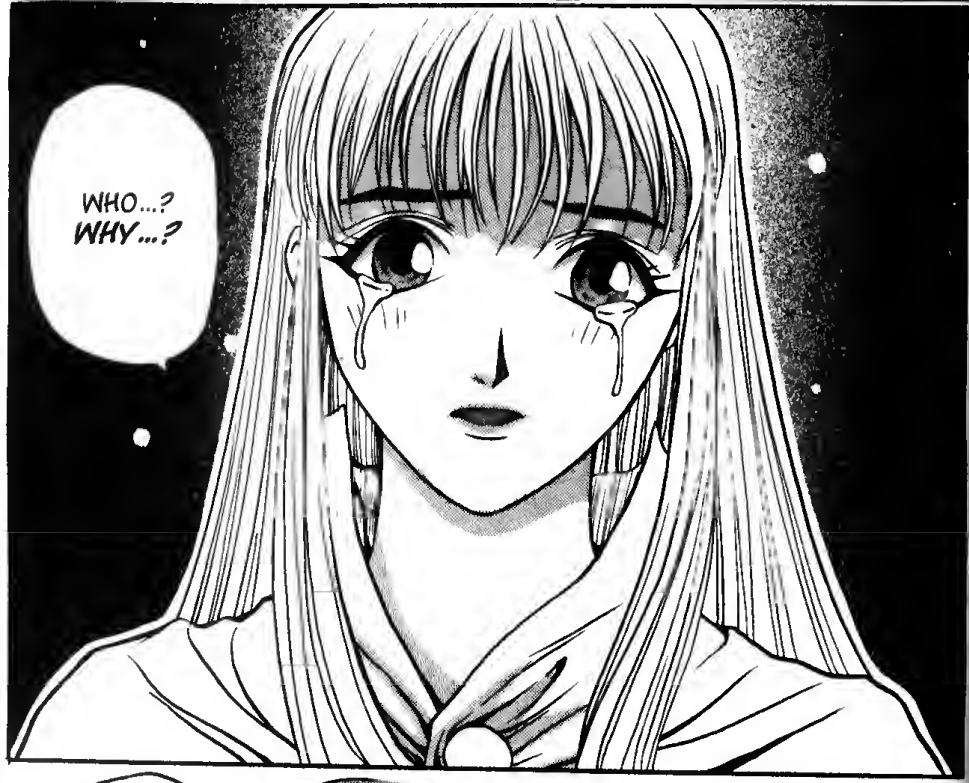
NO...THIS IS THE OLD MAN'S CANE!!

HA! THERE IT IS!
OH. OH, MY...

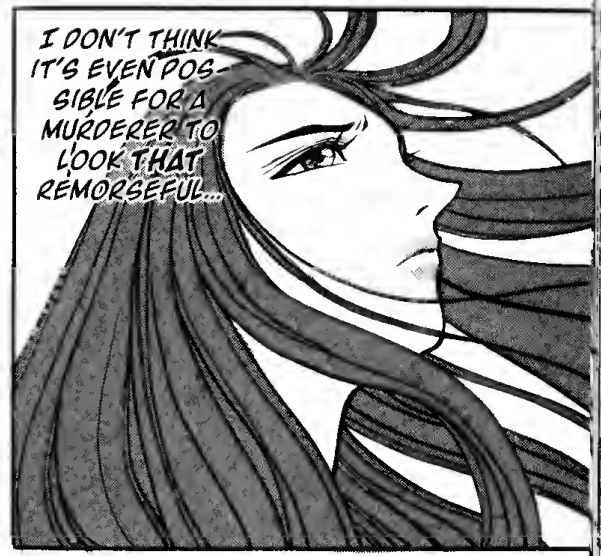
EVERY MAN, EVERY WOMAN, EVERY CHILD, EVERY MANGY DOG...ALL DEAD.

NO... IT CAN'T BE...IT JUST CAN'T...

WHO DID THIS...?

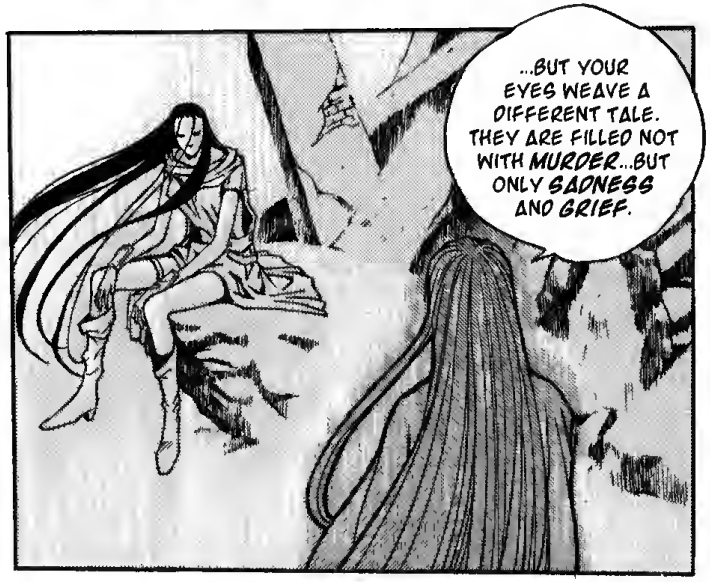

WHO...?
WHY...?

THERE'S SO MUCH SORROW IN HER...IT'S AS PALPABLE IN THE AIR ABOUT HER AS A MORNING MIST...

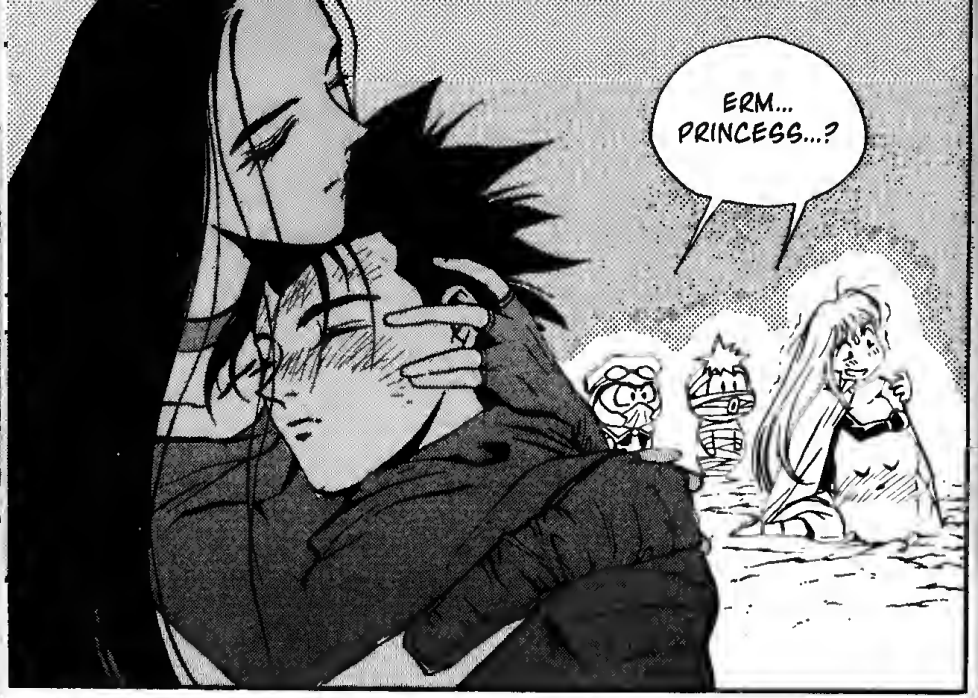

I DON'T THINK IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE FOR A MURDERER TO LOOK THAT REMORSEFUL...

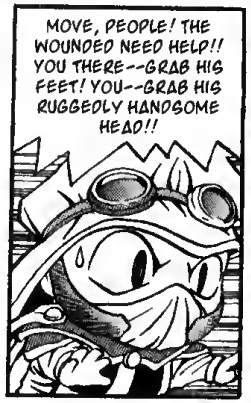
I DID. I KILLED THEM ALL.
TRUE, I MAY NOT HAVE PHYSICALLY CUT THEIR THROATS...BUT I MAY AS WELL HAVE.
WHAT?! HOW COULD A YOUNG GIRL HARBOR SUCH EVIL?!
NO MATTER! I, GENERAL SUMMER, ONE OF THE FOUR GUARDIANS OF HEAVEN SHALL RENDER YOU YOUR RIGHTFUL PUNISHMENT FOR SUCH A HEINOUS CRIME!!

YOU SAY YOU KILLED THEM...

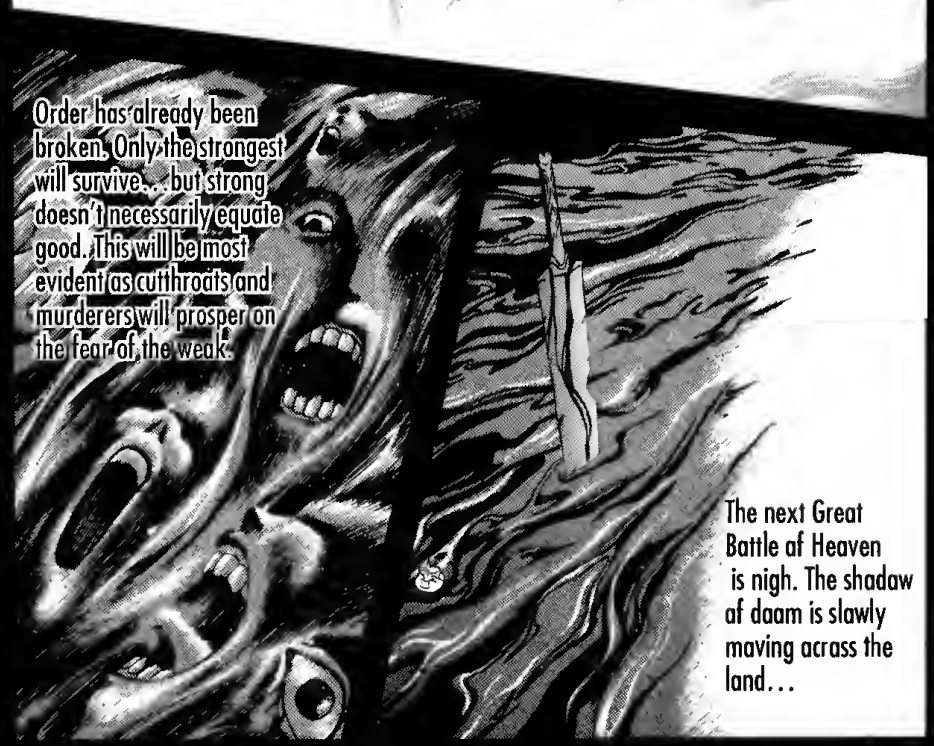

...BUT YOUR EYES WEAVE A DIFFERENT TALE. THEY ARE FILLED NOT WITH MURDER...BUT ONLY SADNESS AND GRIEF.

RYUHA...? CAN IT BE...?
SOMA!
RYUHA... YOU'VE FINALLY... RETURNED...
SOMA!!
AW, BLUEBERRIES--!!
?
DON'T YOU WORRY, SOMA!! I'VE GOT YOU!!
Grab






The human realm, which has lost its power due to the suppression of Heaven, will now become the battleground for all three realms.

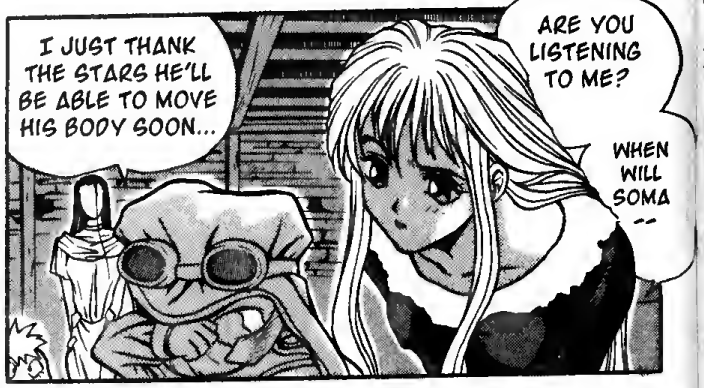


...though the cause of this
destruction knows not of his
destiny. Ironically, the source
of all this pain, this suffering,
desires only to be left in peace.

Alas, the future holds not peace
for the one fated to become the
Kwanqma Devil--
only the darkest night.

THE SECRET OF TERRA IS INDEED A POWERFUL ATTACK...BUT THE TOLL IT TAKES ON THE USER'S BODY IS HIGH.
THE ARGUMENT COULD BE MADE THAT IT'S MORE OF AN INCANTATION FOR SUICIDE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. FRANKLY, IT'S A MIRACLE THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE.
HOW IS SOMA DOING NOW?

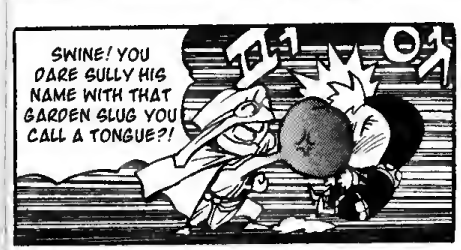
I MEAN, GENERAL WINTER ALREADY HAD A STRONG, MUSCULAR BODY AND A CLEAR MIND, SO...
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS! WHY IS SOMA STILL--


I JUST THANK THE STARS HE'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE HIS BODY SOON...
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
WHEN WILL SOMA --

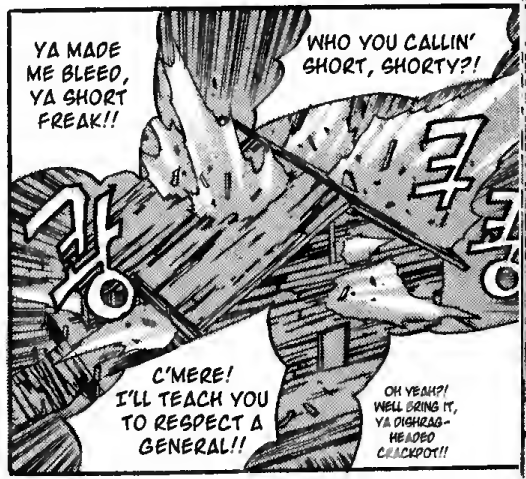
MY POOR, POOR GENERAL! YOUR HEART BEATS BRAVE AND TRUE! MAY ITS LIGHT SHINE ETERNALLY!!

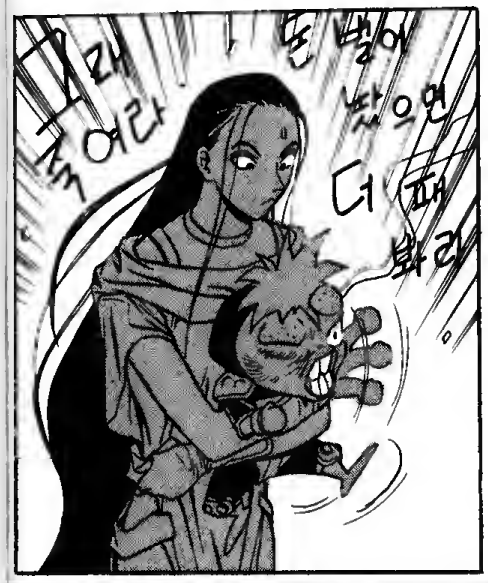
FEH. I MEAN, YEAH, IT SUCKS THAT THE OLD COOT WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGHT AGAIN...

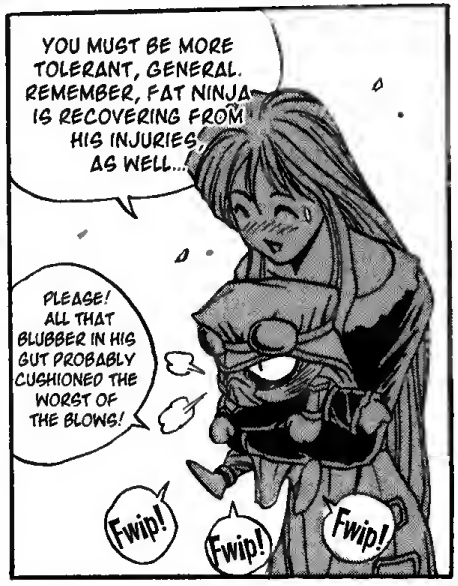
...BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, HE WAS PRONE TO IRRATIONAL OUTBURSTS. NOT TOO IDEAL FOR THE BATTLEFIELD, Y'KNOW?


SWINE! YOU DARE SULLY HIS NAME WITH THAT GARDEN SLUG YOU CALL A TONGUE?!

B-BLOOD...

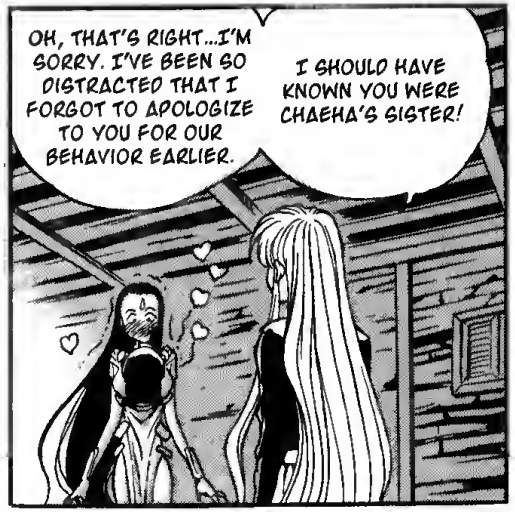

YA MADE ME BLEED, YA SHORT FREAK!!
WHO YOU CALLIN' SHORT, SHORTY?!
C'MERE! I'LL TEACH YOU TO RESPECT A GENERAL!!
OH YEAH?! WELL BRING IT, YA DISHRAG-HEADED CRACKPOT!!



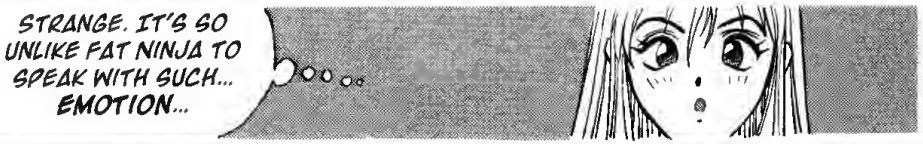

YOU MUST BE MORE TOLERANT, GENERAL. REMEMBER, FAT NINJA IS RECOVERING FROM HIS INJURIES AS WELL...
PLEASE! ALL THAT BLUBBER IN HIS GUT PROBABLY CUSHIONED THE WORST OF THE BLOWS!
Fwip!
Fwip!
Fwip!

HMM...NOW THAT I MENTION IT, FAT NINJA, BARURUGO REALLY WORKED YOU OVER--BUT YOU'RE ALREADY UP AND ABOUT.

AND HOW...! I OWE IT ALL TO THE MEDICINE RYUHA GAVE ME!!

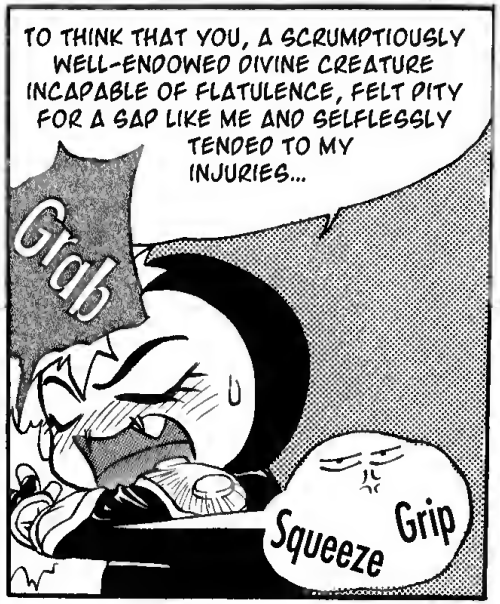

OH, THAT'S RIGHT...I'M SORRY. I'VE BEEN SO DISTRACTED THAT I FORGOT TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR OUR BEHAVIOR EARLIER.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU WERE CHAEHA'S SISTER!

NONSENSE! IT'S FAT NINJA'S FAULT THAT YOU WERE TREATED SO RUDELY BEFORE!
I KNEW FROM THE MOMENT I LAID EYES UPON YOU THAT YOU WERE CHAEHA'S SISTER!

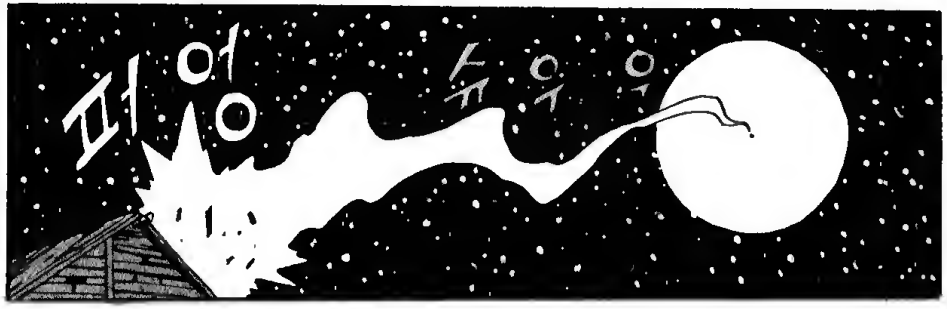

STRANGE. IT'S SO UNLIKE FAT NINJA TO SPEAK WITH SUCH... EMOTION...

THIS LITTLE FLOWER GREW UP IN HEAVEN, SURROUNDED BY SPLENDOR AND NOBILITY...
AW...
CHUCKS

...SO SHE IS EXTREMELY SELF-CENTERED, WITH THE ETIQUETTE OF A BILLY GOAT IN HEAT! THUS, I, A MAGNIFICENTLY HONEST AND COURAGEOUS MAN, SHALL APOLOGIZE IN HER STEAD!
↑ PRINCESS

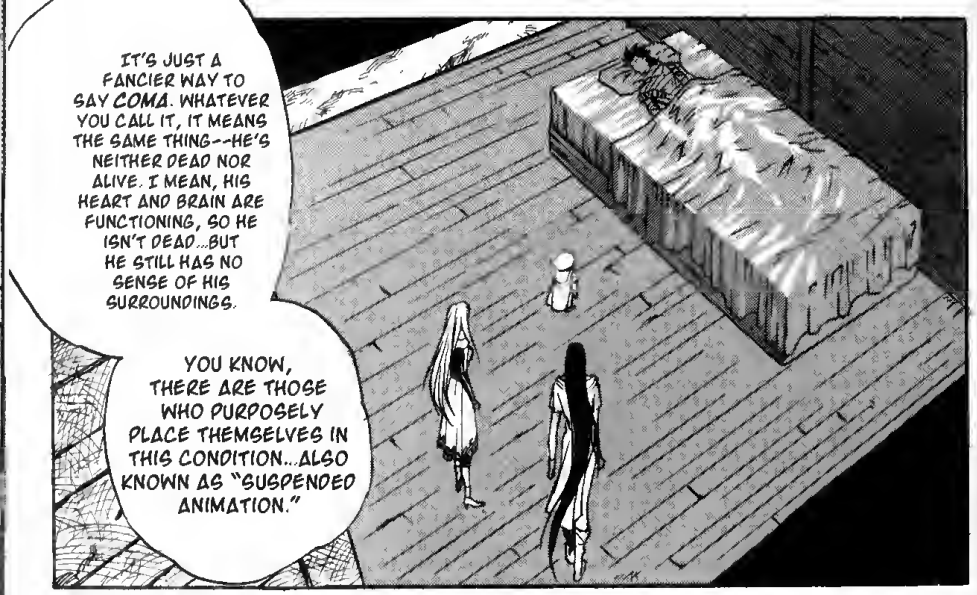

TO THINK THAT YOU, A SCRUMPTIOUSLY WELL-ENDOWED DIVINE CREATURE INCAPABLE OF FLATULENCE, FELT PITY FOR A SAP LIKE ME AND SELFLESSLY TENDED TO MY INJURIES...
Grab
Squeeze
Grip

...AND SINCE YOU OBVIOUSLY CHERISH THIS BODY OF MINE, I WILLINGLY GIVE MYSELF...
WHAT'RE YOU...? DON'T TOUCH THAT--!!

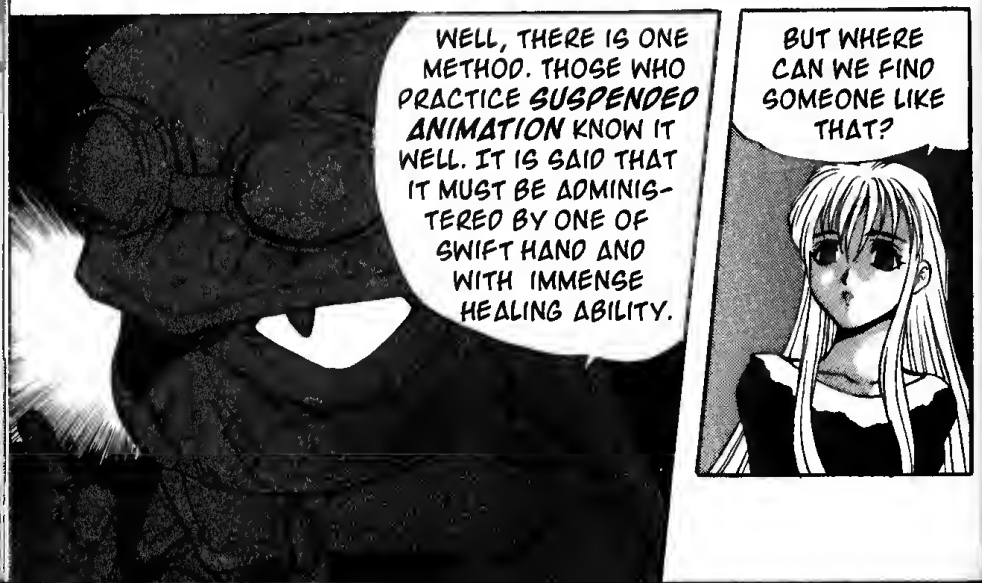


HA HA...! SORRY ABOUT THAT! HE'S HARMLESS, REALLY. LIKE A CUDDLY WITTLE BEAR...THAT'LL PICK YOUR POCKET.
IT'S WORSE THAN I FEARED! TO THINK MY NAIVE LITTLE PRINCESS DEFENDS THE BEHAVIOR OF THAT HALF-WIT SCOUNDREL! SHE'S ONLY IN THIS REALM A FEW DAYS AND ALREADY SHE'S SLIDING DOWN THE ICY SLOPE OF DELINQUENCY! I SHALL NEVER LEAVE HER SIDE AGAIN! NOT EVEN FOR BATHROOM BREAKS!
IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT...
HIS INJURIES WERE RATHER SLIGHT, SO I WAS ABLE TO CURE HIM FAIRLY QUICKLY.
SOMA, HOWEVER...

HE'S IN A SYNCOPIC STATE, PRINCESS.
SYNCOPIC...?! WHAT'S THAT?!

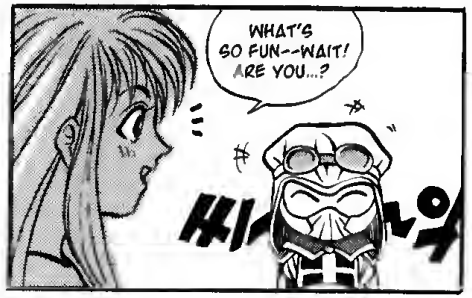

IT'S JUST A FANCIER WAY TO SAY COMA. WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, IT MEANS THE SAME THING--HE'S NEITHER DEAD NOR ALIVE. I MEAN, HIS HEART AND BRAIN ARE FUNCTIONING, SO HE ISN'T DEAD...BUT HE STILL HAS NO SENSE OF HIS SURROUNDINGS.
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE THOSE WHO PURPOSELY PLACE THEMSELVES IN THIS CONDITION...ALSO KNOWN AS "SUSPENDED ANIMATION."

PRACTITIONERS SAY THAT ONLY THOSE OF STRONG BODY AND MIND CAN SURVIVE SYNCOPIC SLUMBER...
...THAT IS, IF THE PERSON CAN RECOVER FROM THE EXTREME SHOCK TO THE BODY AND MIND.
YOU MEAN... THERE'S NO WAY TO CURE HIM?

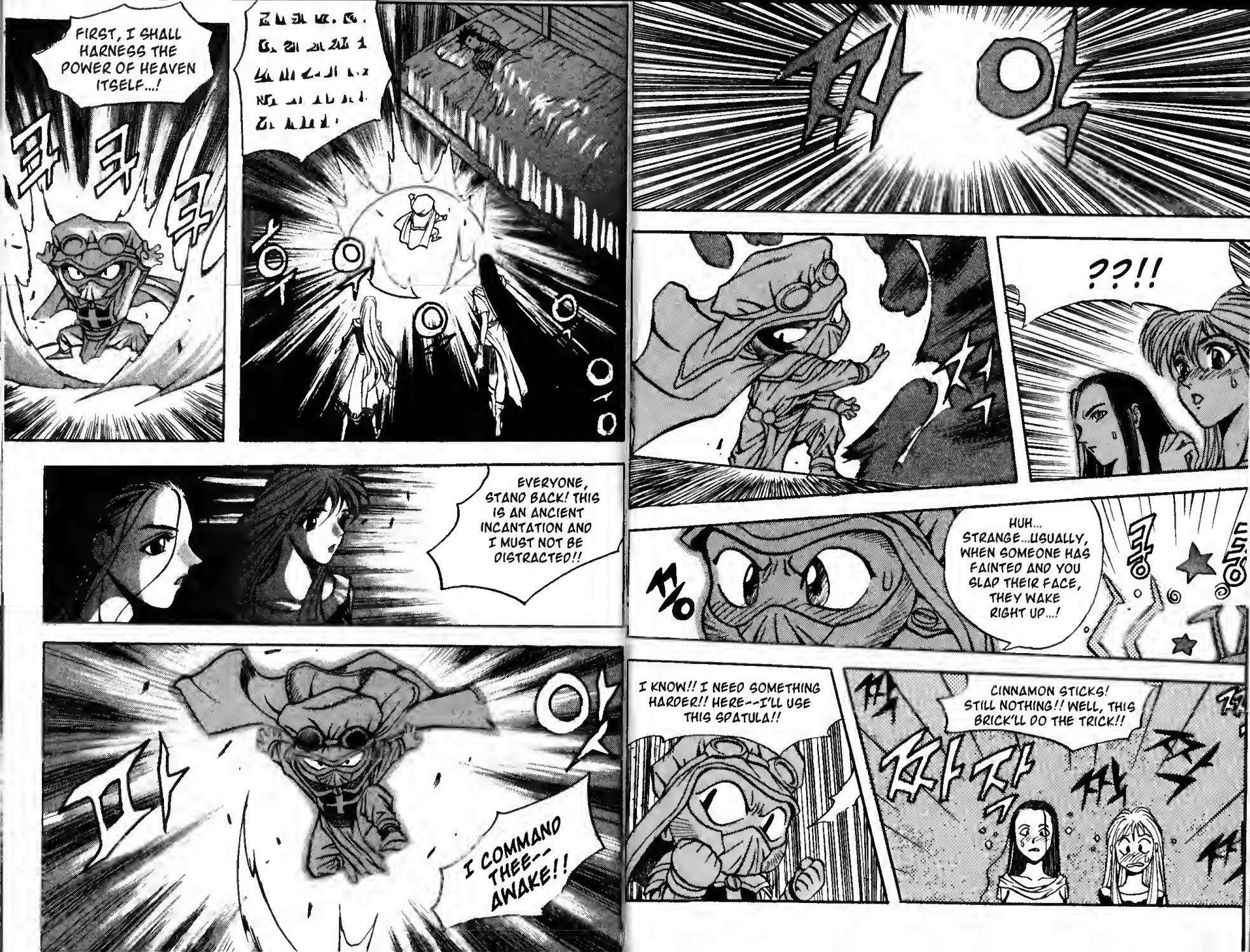

WELL, THERE IS ONE METHOD. THOSE WHO PRACTICE SUSPENDED ANIMATION KNOW IT WELL. IT IS SAID THAT IT MUST BE ADMINISTERED BY ONE OF SWIFT HAND AND WITH IMMENSE HEALING ABILITY.
BUT WHERE CAN WE FIND SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

JUST TELL ME WHERE TO GO! I'LL CARRY HIM ON MY BACK IF I HAVE TO!

AHEM...
HEH...
HEH..

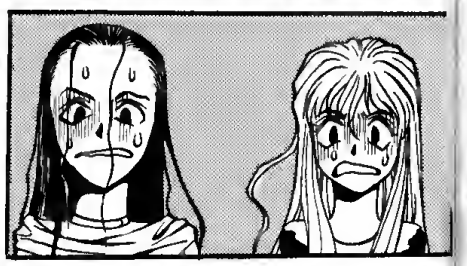

WHAT'S SO FUN--WAIT! ARE YOU...?

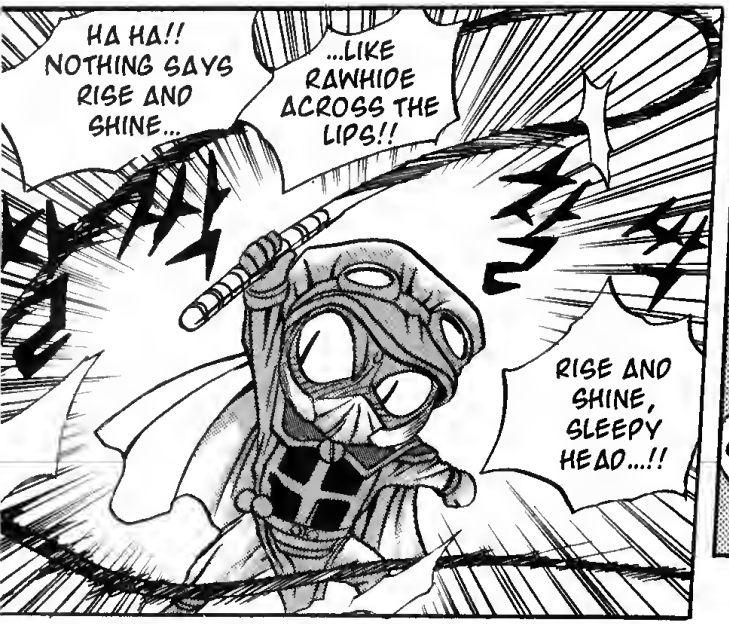
THAT'S RIGHT!! LOOK NO FURTHER--
--AND STAND IN AWE OF MY INCANTATION PROWESS!!


FIRST, I SHALL HARNESS THE POWER OF HEAVEN ITSELF...!
EVERYONE, STAND BACK! THIS IS AN ANCIENT INCANTATION AND I MUST NOT BE DISTRACTED!!
I COMMAND THEE-- AWAKE!!
??!!
K/O
HUH... STRANGE...USUALLY, WHEN SOMEONE HAS FAINTED AND YOU SLAP THEIR FACE, THEY WAKE RIGHT UP...!
I KNOW!! I NEED SOMETHING HARDER!! HERE--I'LL USE THIS SPATULA!!
CINNAMON STICKS! STILL NOTHING!! WELL, THIS BRICK'LL DO THE TRICK!!

47

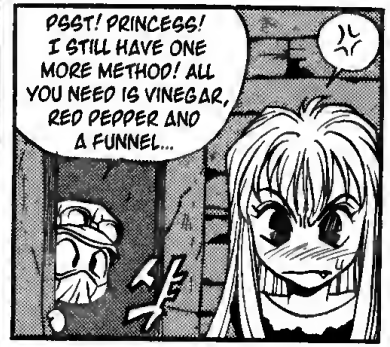
AW, GUMDROPS... WAIT! SILLY ME! I KNOW JUST WHAT TO USE...
헉

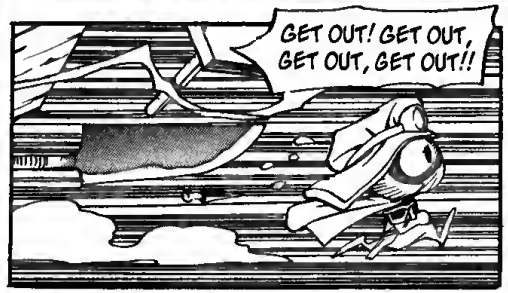


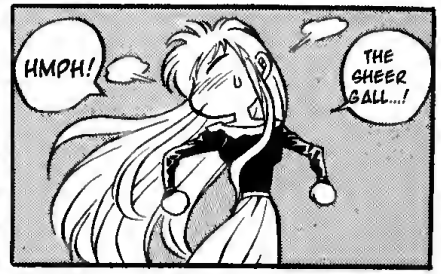

HA HA!! NOTHING SAYS RISE AND SHINE...
...LIKE RAWHIDE ACROSS THE LIPS!!
RISE AND SHINE, SLEEPY HEAD...!!

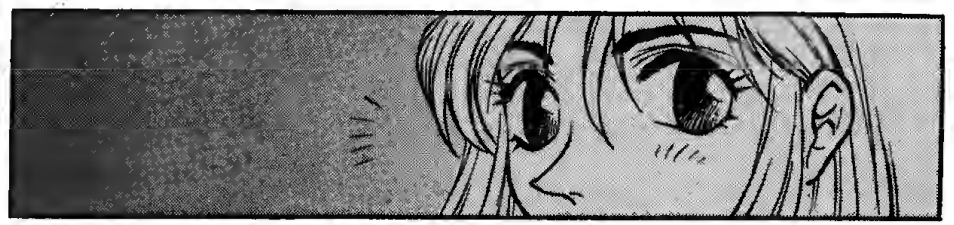
MORON! GO SLAP LIPS OUTSIDE WITH FAT NINJA!
OWIE!

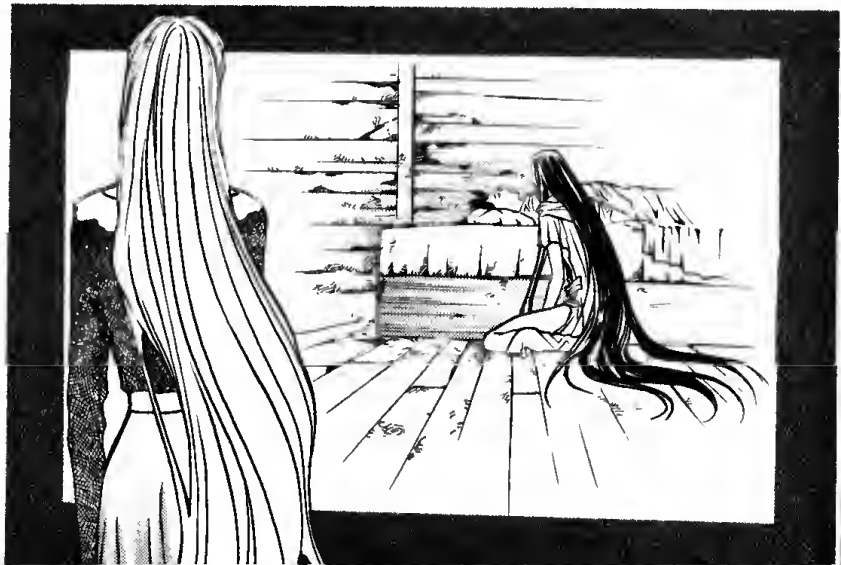
POOR SOMA... I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HIM...

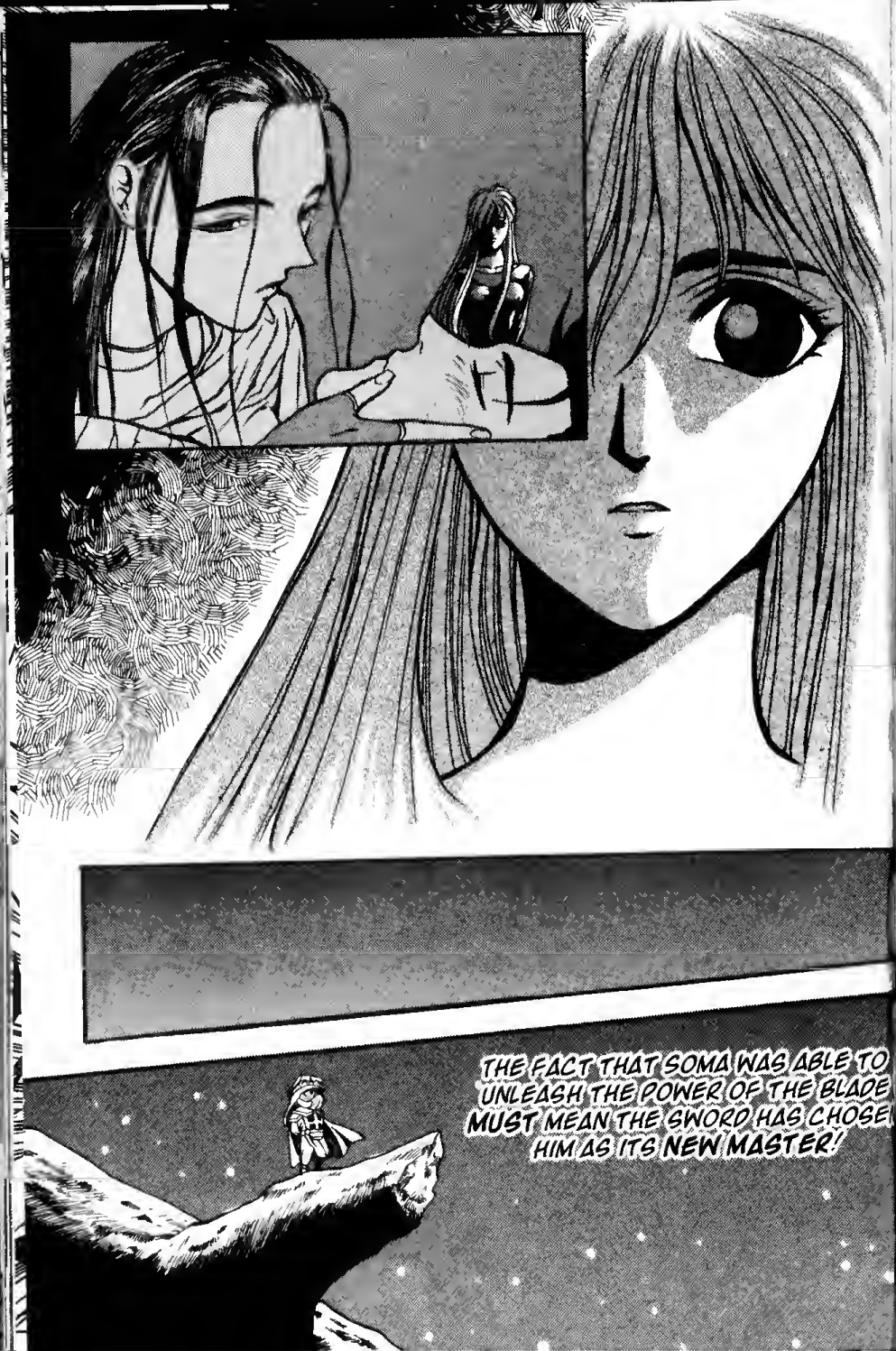

PSST! PRINCESS! I STILL HAVE ONE MORE METHOD! ALL YOU NEED IS VINEGAR, RED PEPPER AND A FUNNEL...


GET OUT! GET OUT, GET OUT, GET OUT!!


HMPH!
THE SHEER GALL...!

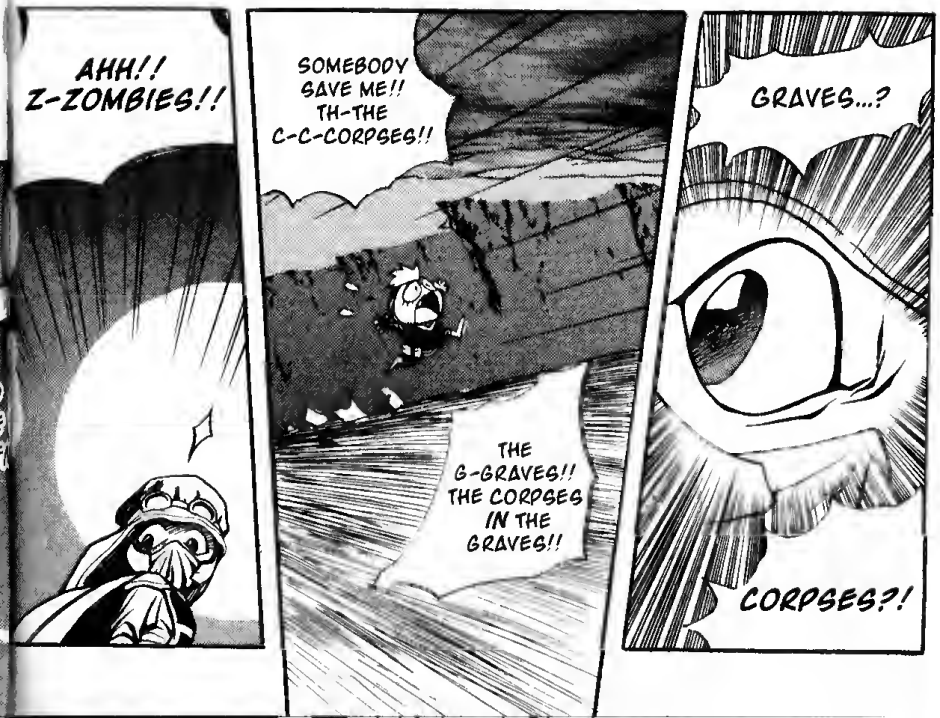




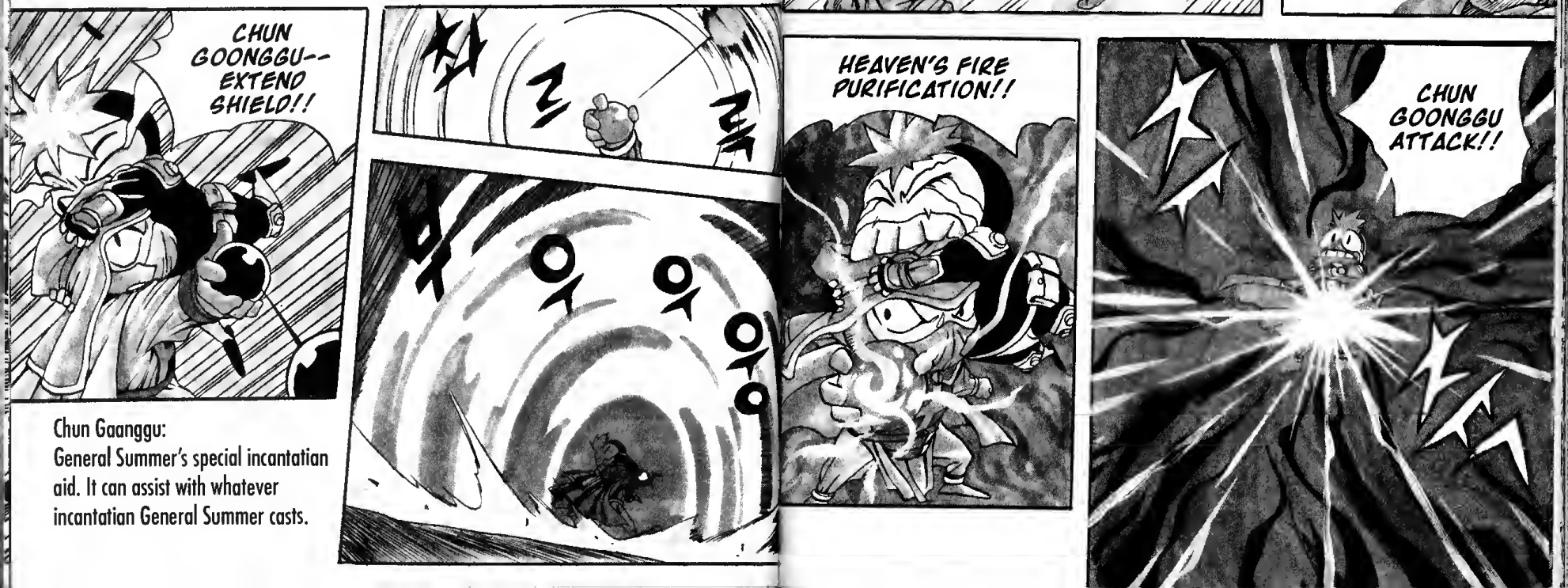

THE FACT THAT SOMA WAS ABLE TO UNLEASH THE POWER OF THE BLADE MUST MEAN THE SWORD HAS CHOSE HIM AS ITS NEW MASTER!

EVEN WHEN THE KING HIMSELF TOLD ME SOMA WAS THE CHOSEN ONE, I STILL COULDN'T BELIEVE IT...UNTIL NOW. HOWEVER, NONE OF IT MATTERS IF HIS BODY CANNOT WITHSTAND THE POWER OF THE BLADE.

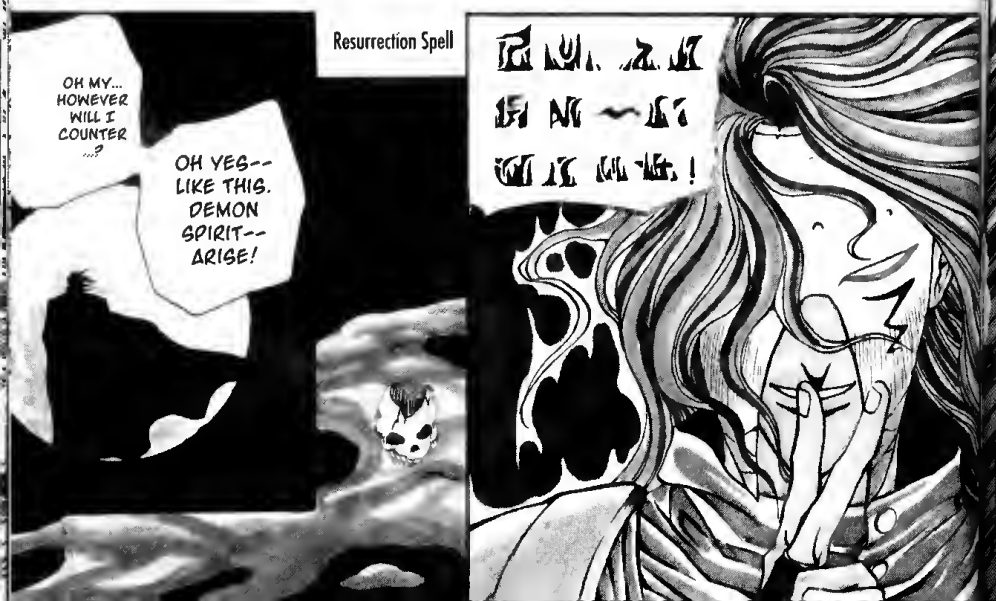
BUT IT'S NOT JUST HIS BODY THAT NEEDS TO BE STRONG...HIS MIND MUST BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE POWER, AS WELL!
ONLY TIME WILL TELL, I SUPPOSE. WHETHER HE'LL FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF KING PACHUN, THE ONLY OTHER HUMAN TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY WIELDED THE BLADE...OR WHETHER HE WILL BE YET ANOTHER CASUALTY OF ITS POWER.


AHH!! Z-ZOMBIES!!
SOMEBODY SAVE ME!! TH-THE C-C-CORPSES!!
THE G-GRAVES!! THE CORPSES IN THE GRAVES!!
GRAVES...?
CORPSES?!

Little did they know thot this wos the result Wulyohon's demon possession melody!
THAT'S IT, MY SWEETS... CLAW YOUR WAY THROUGH THE PINE BOXES AND STONY DIRT! LIBERATE YOURSELVES FROM YOUR EARTHEN CELLS!



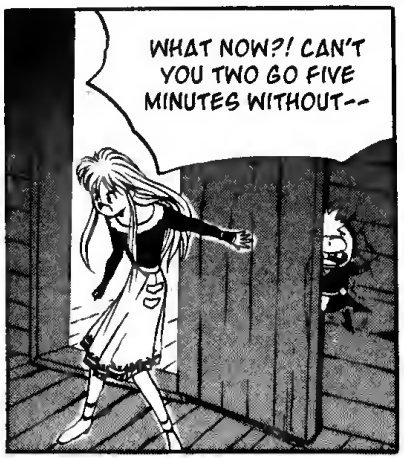

Chun Gaanggu:
General Summer's special incantatian aid. It can assist with whatever incantatian General Summer casts.

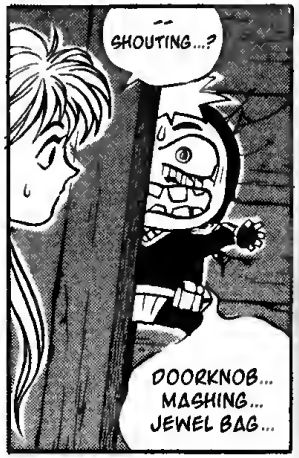

Resurrection Spell
OH MY... HOWEVER WILL I COUNTER ...?
OH YES-- LIKE THIS. DEMON SPIRIT-- ARISE!

HU UR RRRKKK!!
AW CRAP!! THAT THING'S GOT, LIKE, EIGHT FRIGGIN' MOUTHS!! I'M CERTAIN TO BE ZOMBIE CHOW, NOW!!

OPEN THE DOOR!! I REPEAT--OPEN THA MOTHER LOVIN' DOOR!!

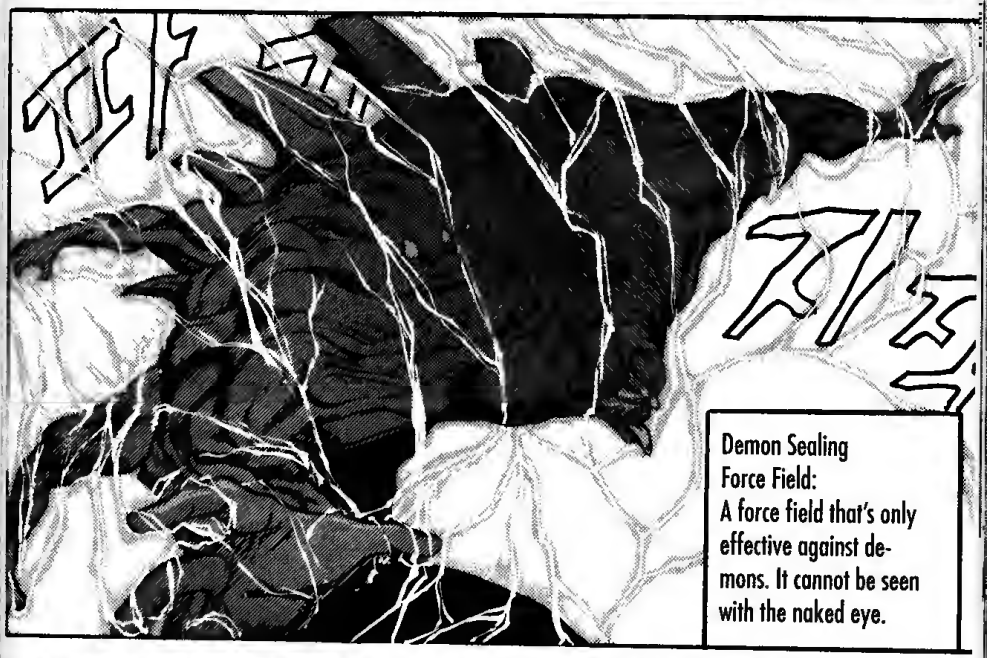
Waaa!!


WHAT NOW?! CAN'T YOU TWO GO FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT--


--SHOUTING...?
DOORKNOB... MASHING... JEWEL BAG...

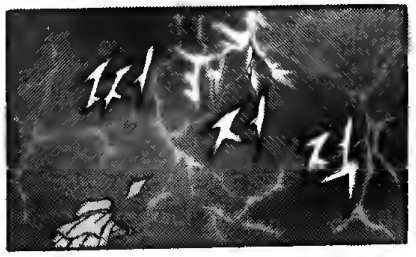
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!

WHY IS GENERAL SUMMER JUST STANDING THERE?! WHY ISN'T HE RUNNING AWAY?!


Demon Sealing Force Field:
A force field that's only effective against demons. It cannot be seen with the naked eye.

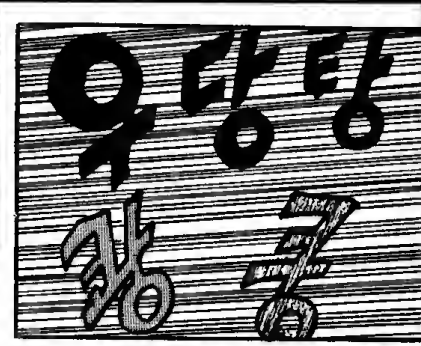
BZNZ~!!

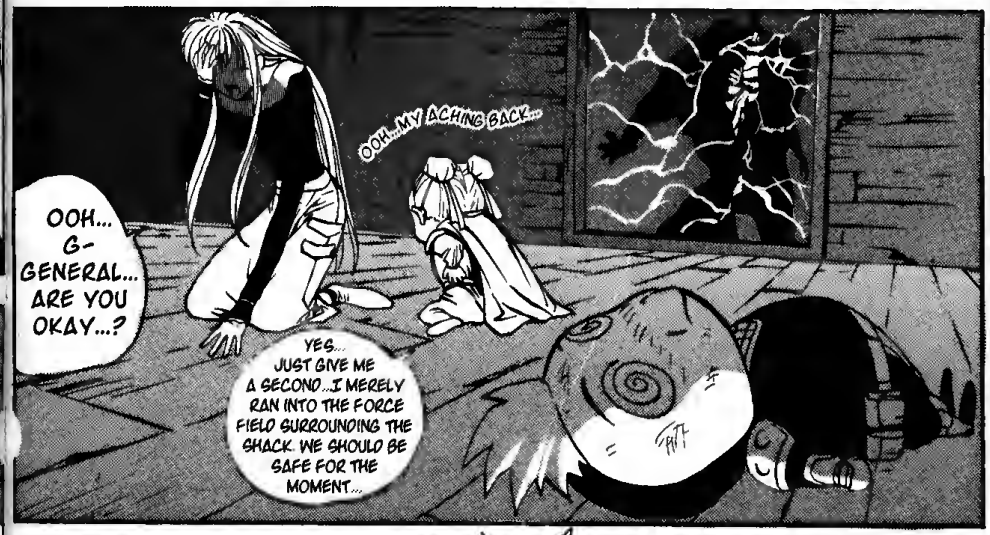
Nya44!!



GENERAL SUMMER!!

EH?




OOH... G-GENERAL... ARE YOU OKAY...?
OOH...MY ACHING BACK...
YES... JUST GIVE ME A SECOND...I MERELY RAN INTO THE FORCE FIELD SURROUNDING THE SHACK. WE SHOULD BE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT...

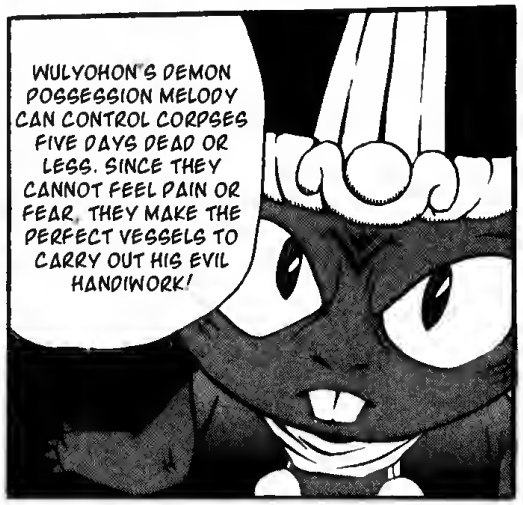
GR...GR... GR...
WHAT? I'M MISSING AN EYEBROW, AREN'T I?! I KNEW I SMELLED BURNING HAIR...!

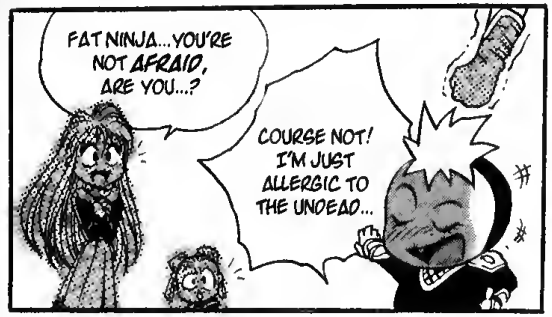
GRANNY?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

RYUHA, MY SWEET...COME TO ME...
MY MASK!!
OH, ORANGE PEELS--!! THE GIG'S UP!!

UH, YOU GUYS...? THE FORCE FIELD'S WEAKENING!!
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS OUT THERE, ANYWAY?!

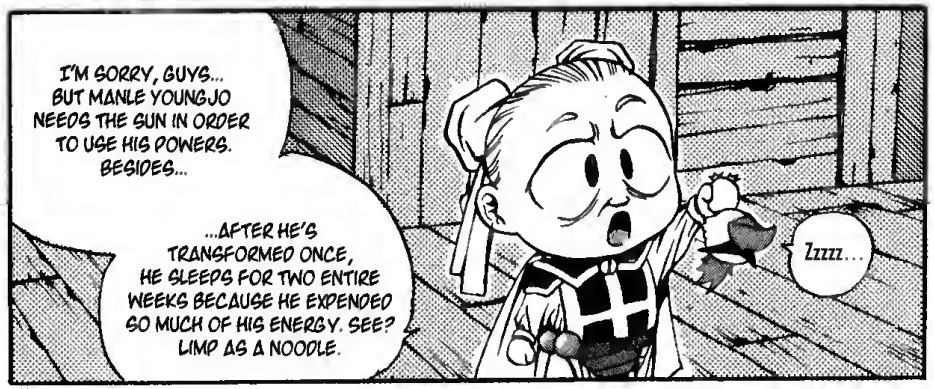
BAD NEWS IS WHAT, TOOTS. THEY'RE THE HANDIWORK OF THE FOURTH MEMBER OF THE EIGHT DISCIPLES OF MACHUNROO-- THE DEMON WULYOHON.


WULYOHON'S DEMON POSSESSION MELODY CAN CONTROL CORPSES FIVE DAYS DEAD OR LESS. SINCE THEY CANNOT FEEL PAIN OR FEAR, THEY MAKE THE PERFECT VESSELS TO CARRY OUT HIS EVIL HANDIWORK!

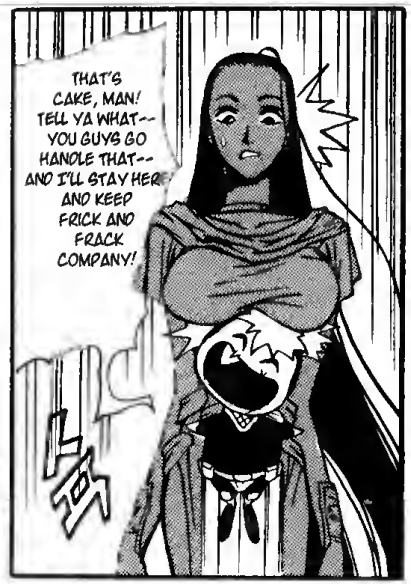

FAT NINJA...YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, ARE YOU...?
COURSE NOT! I'M JUST ALLERGIC TO THE UNDEAD...

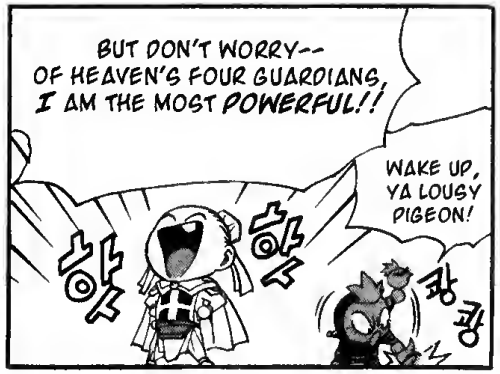
SO WHAT SAY YOU, ROCKIN' CHAIR? HOW 'BOUT YOU RELEASE YOUR PET TURKEY SO WE CAN SKEDADDLE?

HOW 'BOUT YOU SHUT YER TRAP, KNEE-HIGH!

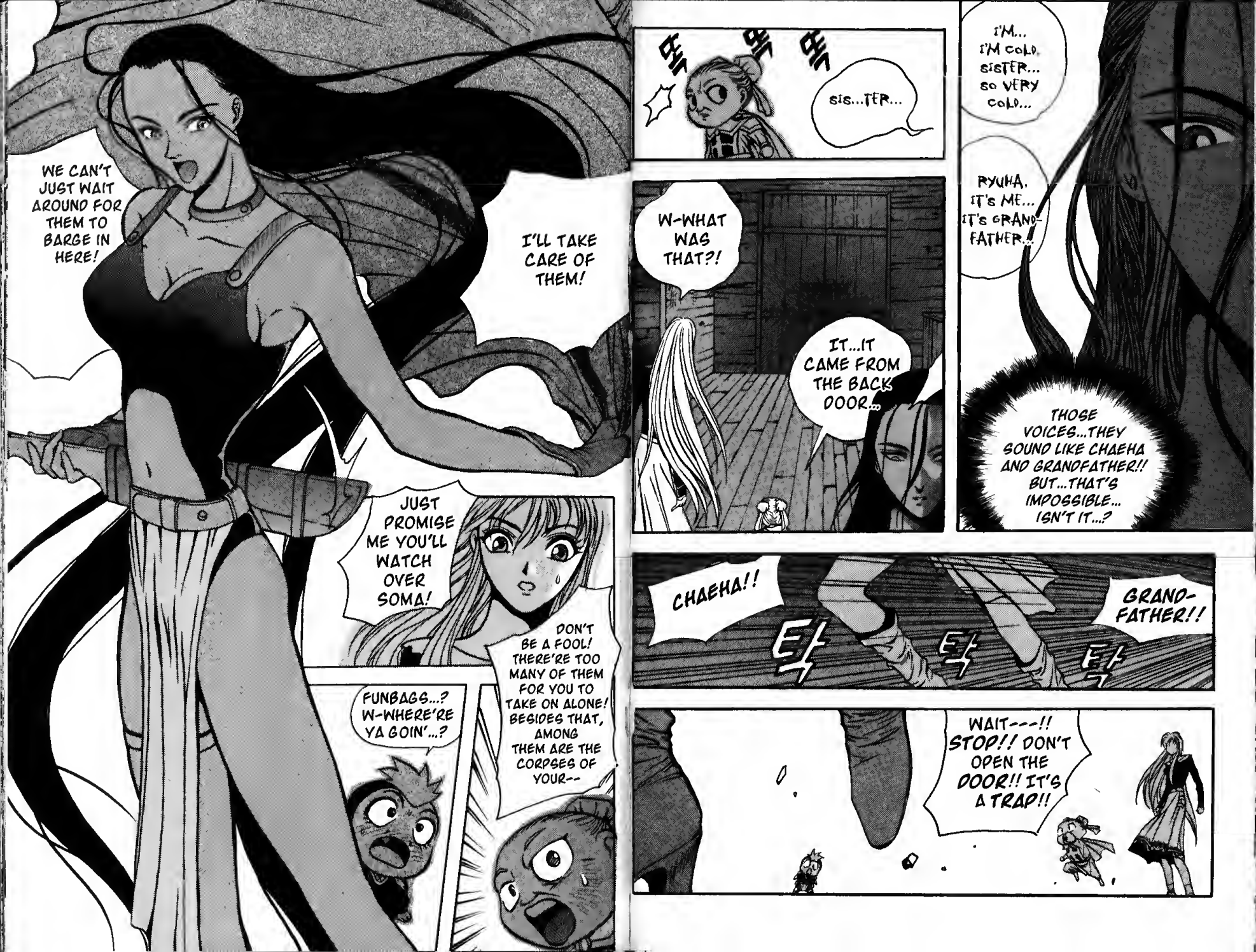

I'M SORRY, GUYS... BUT MANLE YOUNGJO NEEDS THE SUN IN ORDER TO USE HIS POWERS. BESIDES...
...AFTER HE'S TRANSFORMED ONCE, HE SLEEPS FOR TWO ENTIRE WEEKS BECAUSE HE EXPENDED SO MUCH OF HIS ENERGY. SEE? LIMP AS A NOODLE.
Zzzzz...

ENOUGH WITH THE EXPOSITION!! HOW DO WE KILL THEM?!
THE ONLY WAY TO-GAK-STOP THEM IS TO REMOVE THE-HURK-DEMON SPIRIT INSECT FROM THEIR B-BODIES...! AND FYI--MY NECK? KINDA NEED IT TO BREATHE!!


THAT'S CAKE, MAN! TELL YA WHAT-- YOU GUYS GO HANDLE THAT-- AND I'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP FRICK AND FRACK COMPANY!


BUT DON'T WORRY-- OF HEAVEN'S FOUR GUARDIANS, I AM THE MOST POWERFUL!!
WAKE UP, YA LOUSY PIGEON!

MY... SO SPRY FOR HER AGE...
LET'S GO, MANLE YOUNGJO! COME AND GET US, YOU TOOLS OF EVIL!


WE CAN'T JUST WAIT AROUND FOR THEM TO BARGE IN HERE!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!
JUST PROMISE ME YOU'LL WATCH OVER SOMA!
DON'T BE A FOOL! THERE'RE TOO MANY OF THEM FOR YOU TO TAKE ON ALONE! BESIDES THAT, AMONG THEM ARE THE CORPSES OF YOUR--
FUNBAGS...? W-WHERE'RE YA GOIN'...?
SIS...TER...
W-WHAT WAS THAT?!
IT...IT CAME FROM THE BACK DOOR...
I'M... I'M COLD. SISTER... SO VERY COLD...
RYUHA. IT'S ME... IT'S GRAND-FATHER...
THOSE VOICES...THEY SOUND LIKE CHAEHA AND GRANDFATHER!! BUT...THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... ISN'T IT...?
CHAEHA!!
GRAND-FATHER!!
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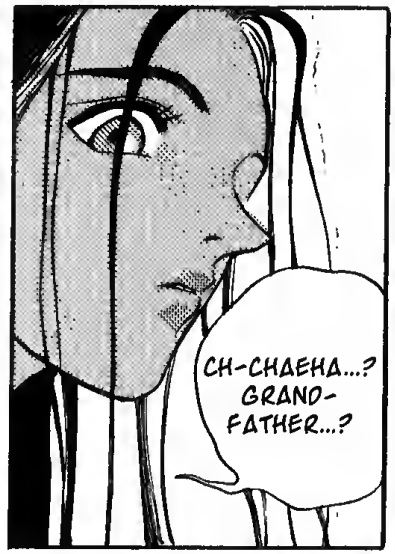
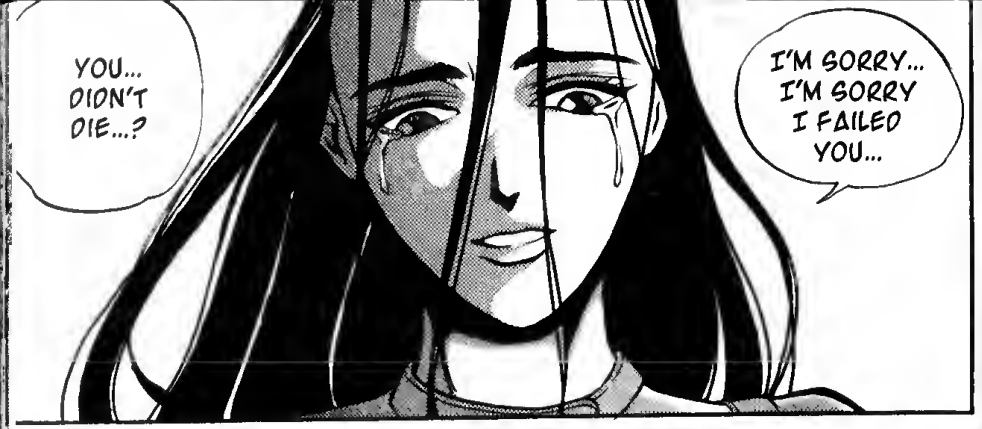
WAIT---!! STOP!! DON'T OPEN THE DOOR!! IT'S A TRAP!!


CH-CHAEHA...?
GRAND-
FATHER...?

SISTER...
IT'S SO COLD
AND SCARY
OUT HERE...
PLEASE...LET
US...IN...


YOU... DIDN'T DIE...?
I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY I FAILED YOU...

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GRANDFATHER...?

GET BACK!! THEY'RE NOT YOUR LOVED ONES!!

KILL...

KILL HER...

KILL THEM ALL!!

NOT ON MY WATCH, DEMON!!

OBEY YOUR MASTER...
...AND KILL THEM!!

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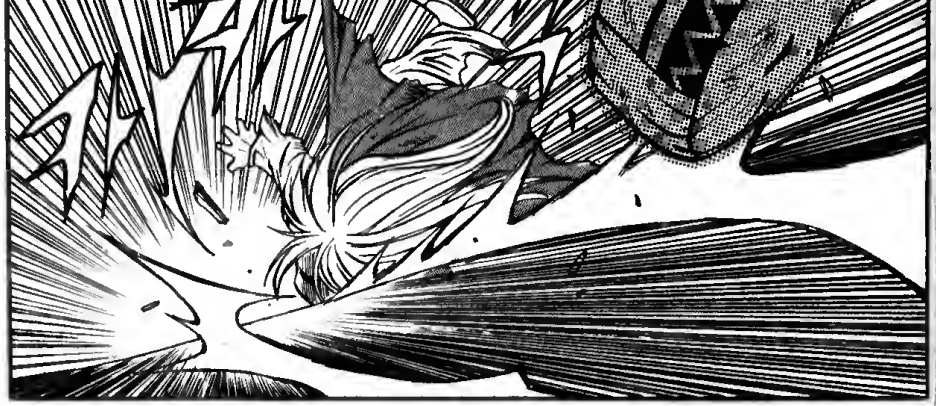
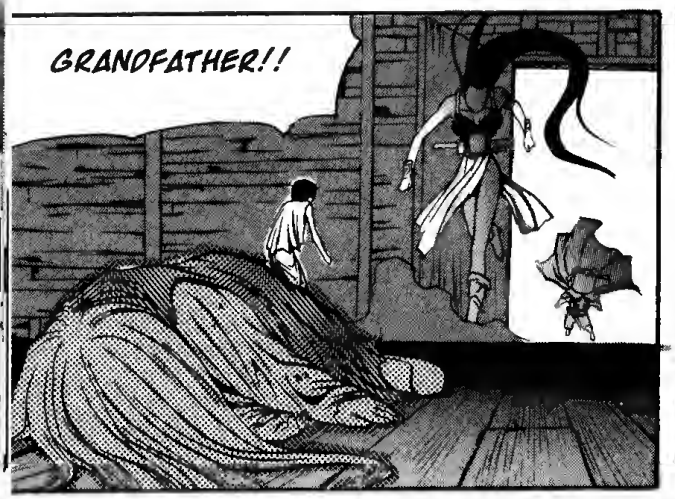
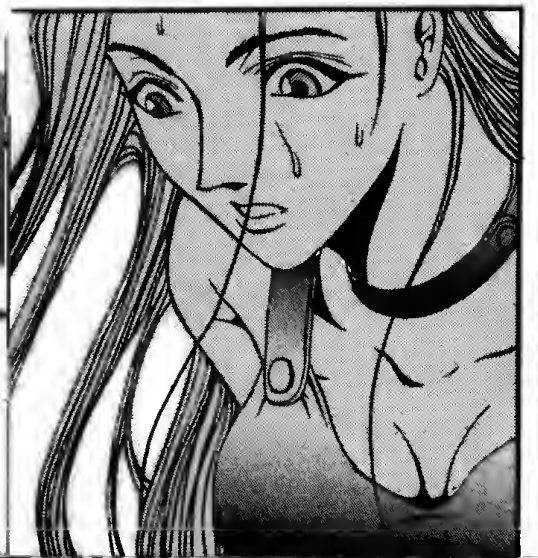



GRANDFATHER!!

THAT'S THING'S NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER!! THERE'S NO SOUL IN THERE--ONLY THE DEMON SPIRIT INSECT!!



HEE HEE HEE...! THERE...IS ONLY ONE WAY...FOR YOU TO SURVIVE... THIS NIGHT...
SURRENDER THE BLADE OF HEAVEN!
AW, GROSS!! HIS FACE IS SLIDIN' OFF!!

DEATH BEFALLS ALL WHO DISOBEY LORD WULYOHON!!

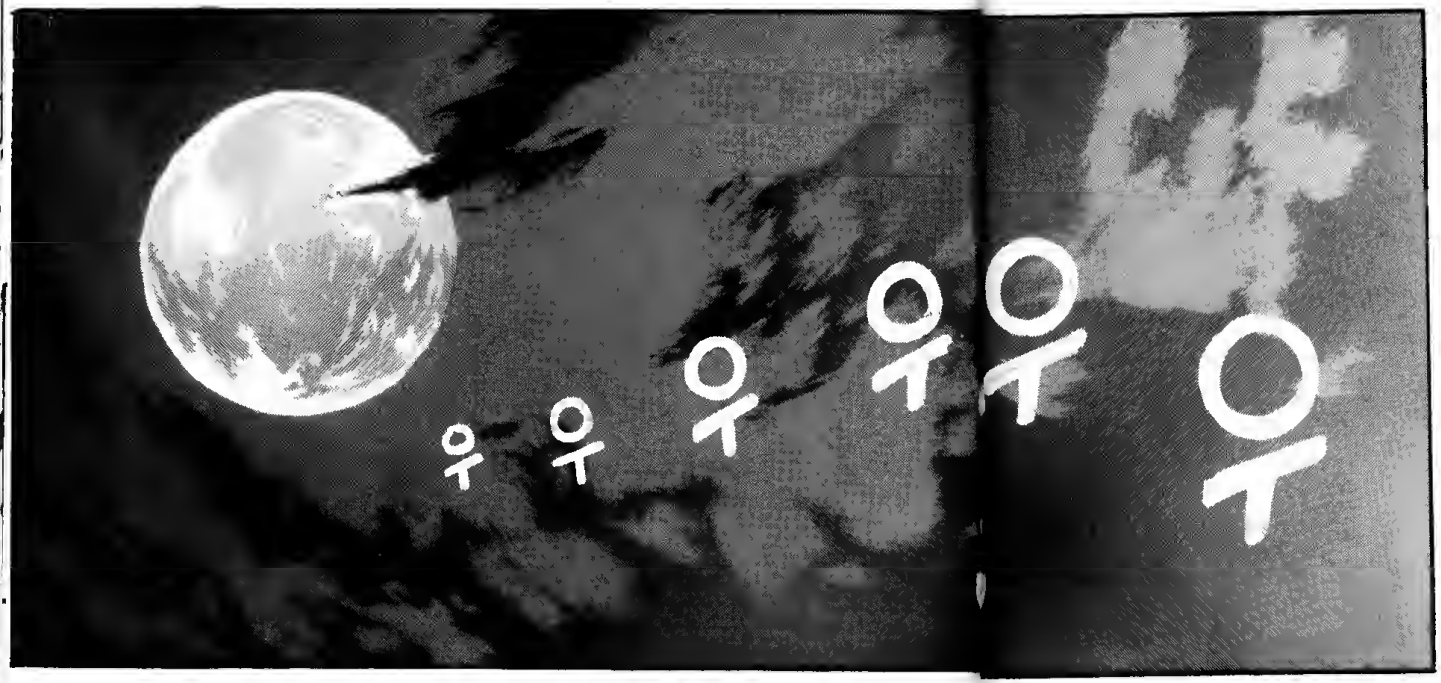
SONOFA--!! HOW'D HE GET THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD?!
FO
FO
FO

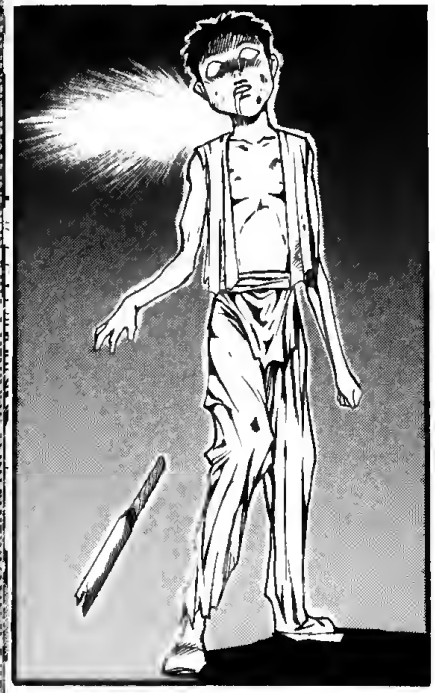
AIIEEE!!
PRINCESS!!
HANG ON!!
UNH! NEVER MIND ME--PROTECT SOMA!!

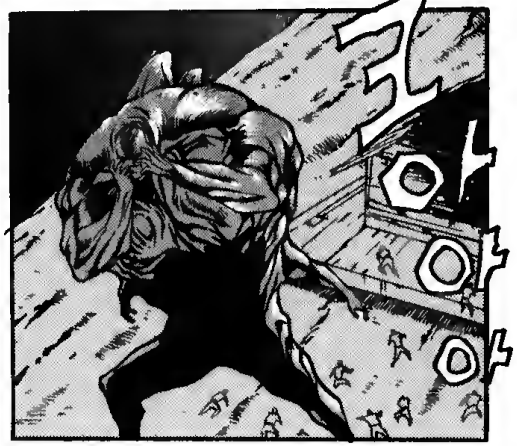
NOOOO!!

CHAEHA!! STOP THIS MADNESS!!
WHAAA!!
CHAEHA...IT'S ME...IT'S SISTER...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME...?
CHAEHA... I LOVE YOU...
DO NOT LISTEN!! KILL HER!! THIS, I COMMAND!!

RYUHA--
BEHIND YOU!!
NYAAAH!!
TOK
TOK
TOK
CHAENA--NO!!
SOMEBODY STOP HIM!!
!
!
!
!
OY
OY
OY
OY





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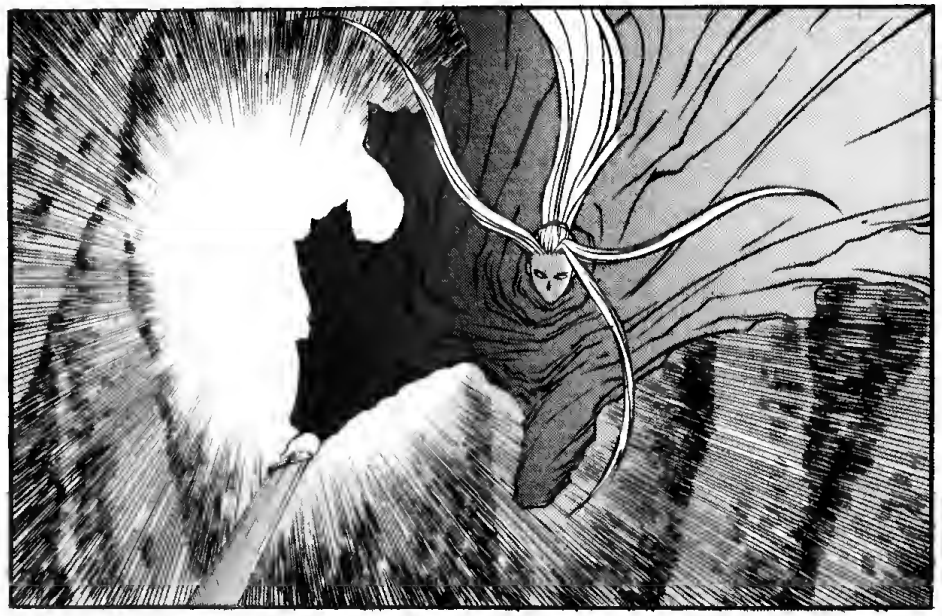
MY INCANTATION...THAT SOUND IS DISRUPTING IT!!

BUT...WHO IS CAPABLE OF SUCH A FEAT?!



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HERE'S OUR CHANCE!! WHILE THEY'RE DISTRACTED!!
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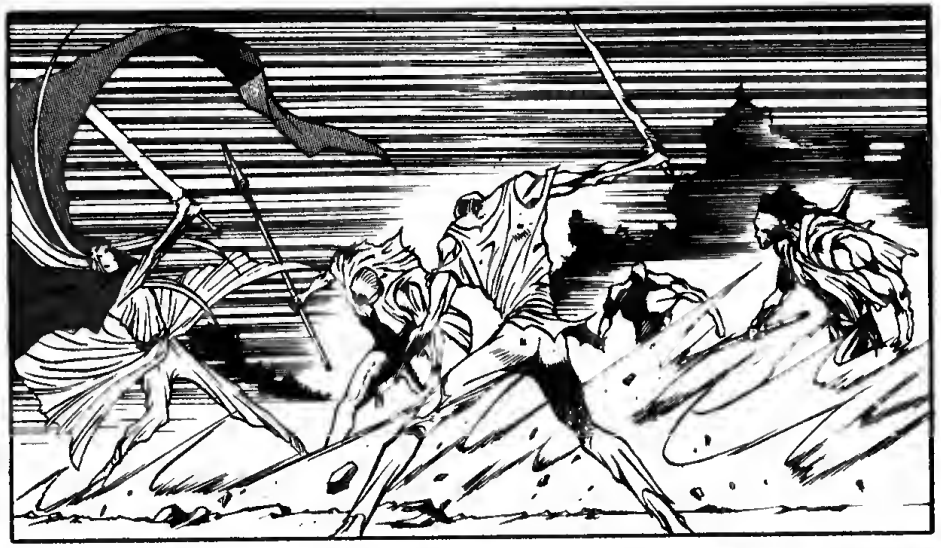
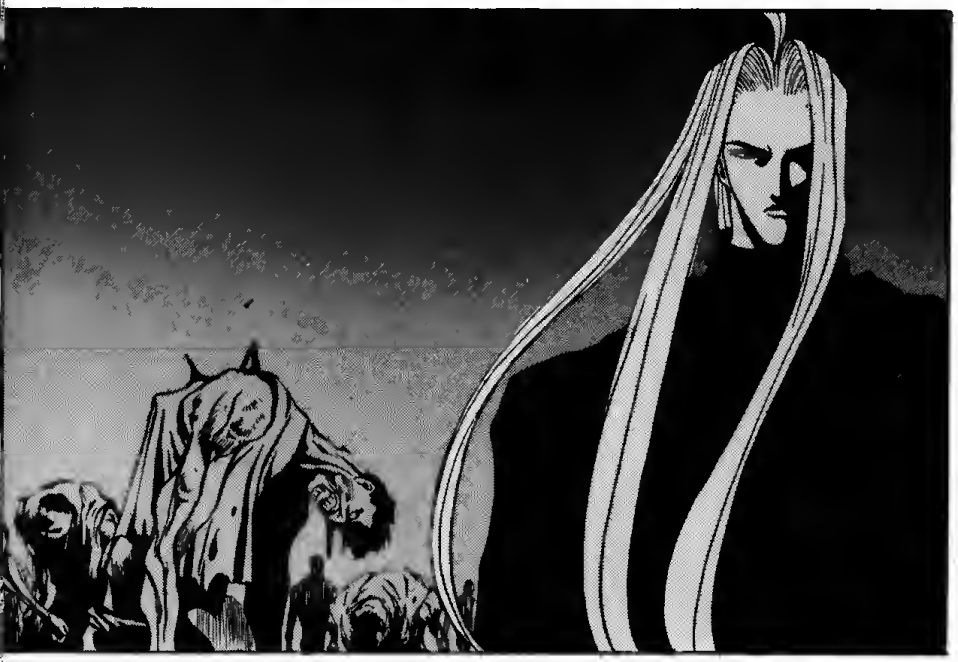
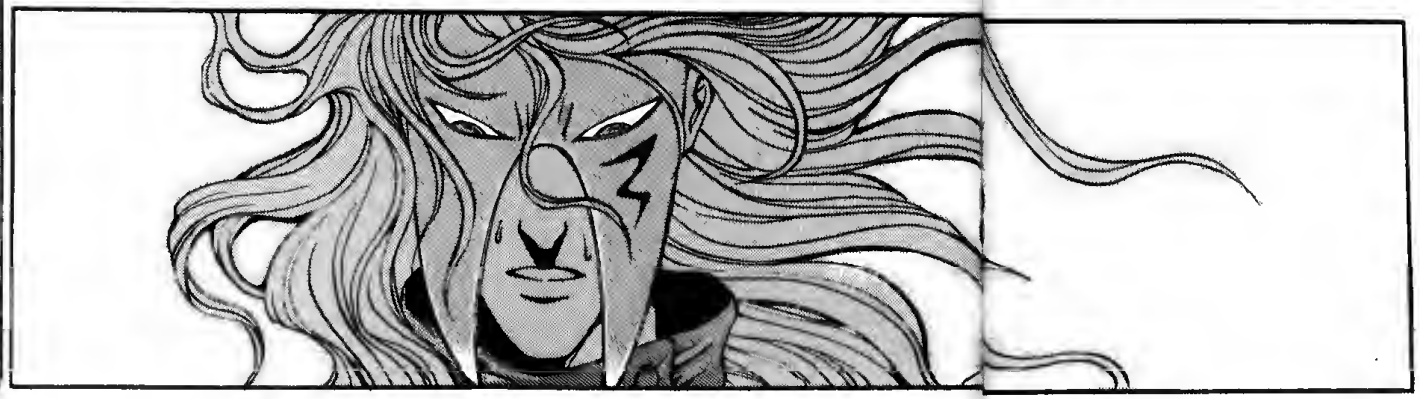
FREEZING INCANTA-TION!!







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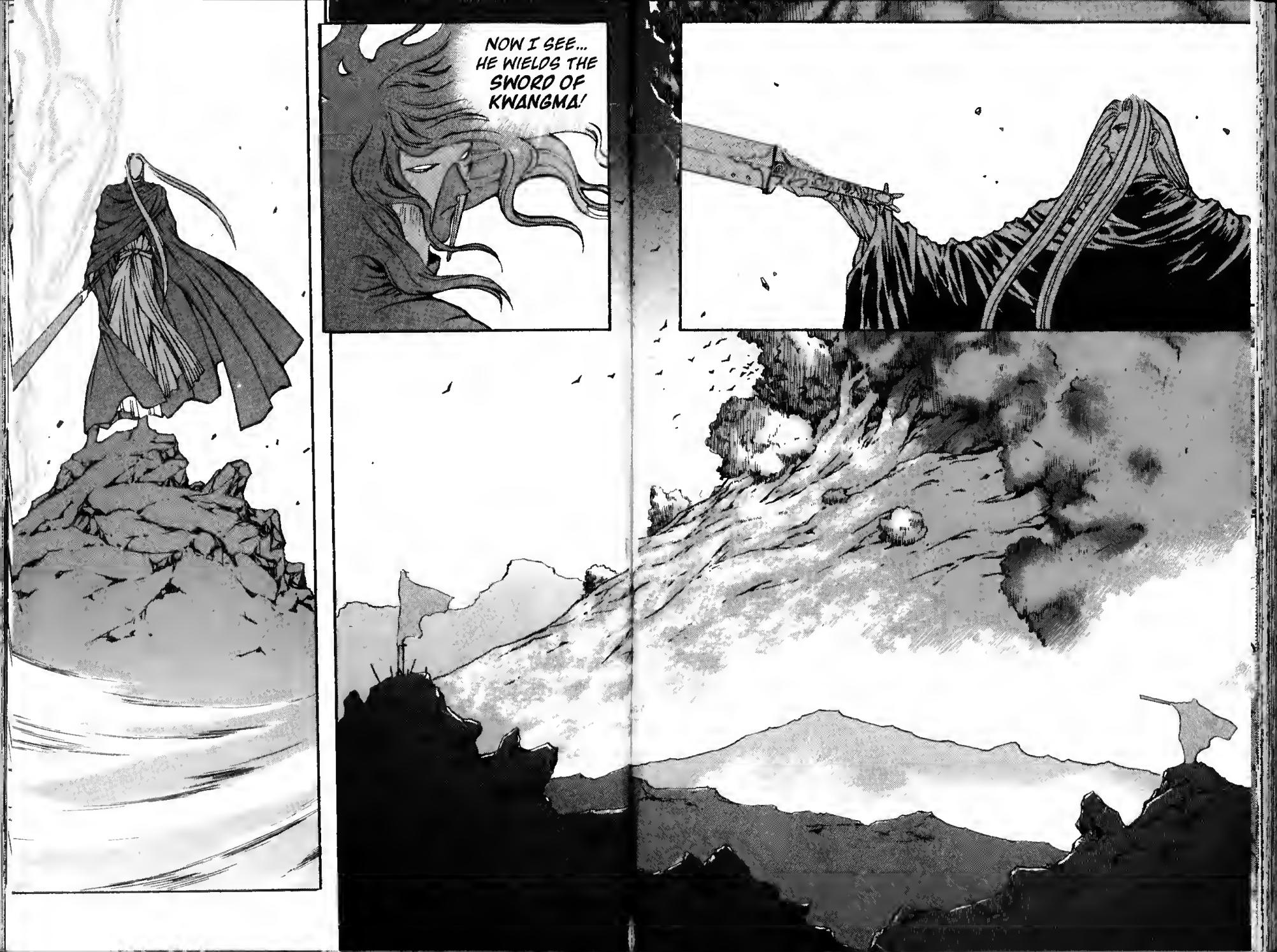
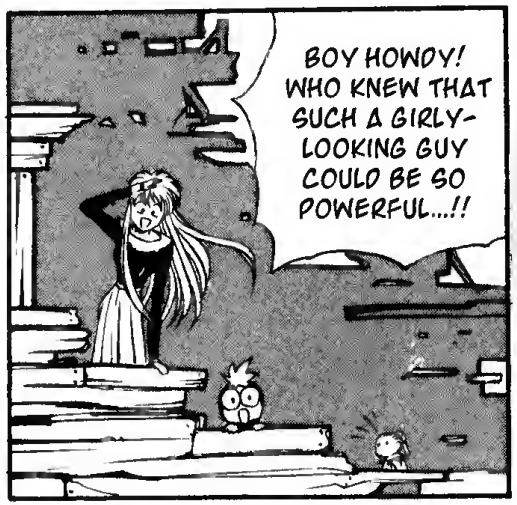
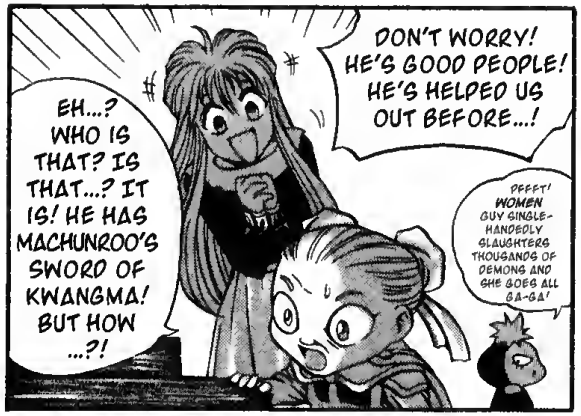

NOW I SEE...
HE WIELDS THE
SWORD OF
KWANGMA!

RYUHA...YOU MUST REALIZE THEY WERE ALREADY DEAD. AND EVEN IF THEY WERE ALIVE, THEY WOULD HAVE SURELY WANTED TO BE PUT OUT OF THEIR MISERY RATHER THAN REMAIN PUPPETS FOR DEMONS.

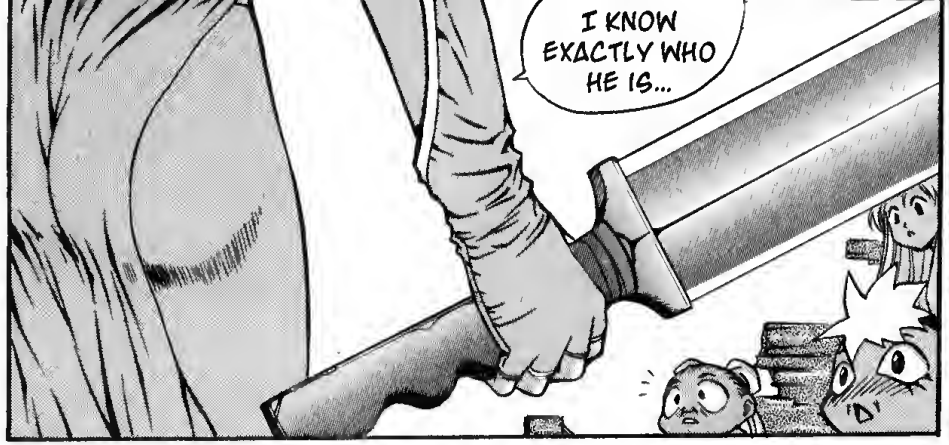
CHAEHA...


BOY HOWDY! WHO KNEW THAT SUCH A GIRLY-LOOKING GUY COULD BE SO POWERFUL...!!

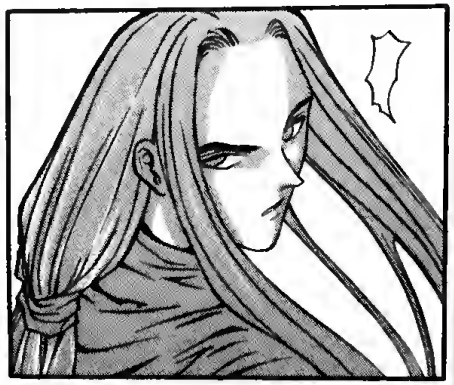

EH...? WHO IS THAT? IS THAT...? IT IS! HE HAS MACHUNROO'S SWORD OF KWANGMA! BUT HOW ...?!
DON'T WORRY! HE'S GOOD PEOPLE! HE'S HELPED US OUT BEFORE...!
OEEE?! WOMEN GUY SINGLE-HANDEDLY SLAUGHTERS THOUSANDS OF DEMONS AND SHE GOES ALL GA-GA!

PRINCESS, I FEAR YOU ARE TOO TRUSTING.

A FEW SELFLESS DEEDS AND YOU THINK YOU KNOW HIM? THE VERY NATURE OF A DEVIL IS TO DECEIVE.
THAT SWORD HE'S HOLDING? IT'S A DEMON SWORD LEGENDARY FOR ITS CARNAGE. NO MAN PURE OF HEART WOULD WIELD SUCH A WEAPON.


I KNOW EXACTLY WHO HE IS...

HE'S THE BASTARD THAT MURDERED MY FAMILY!!



NO WAY!! HE'S THE KILLER?!

IMPOSSIBLE! THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!

SORRY TOOTS-- BUT YER OUT-VOTED TWO TO ONE! RYUHA'S ENEMY IS MY ENEMY!!
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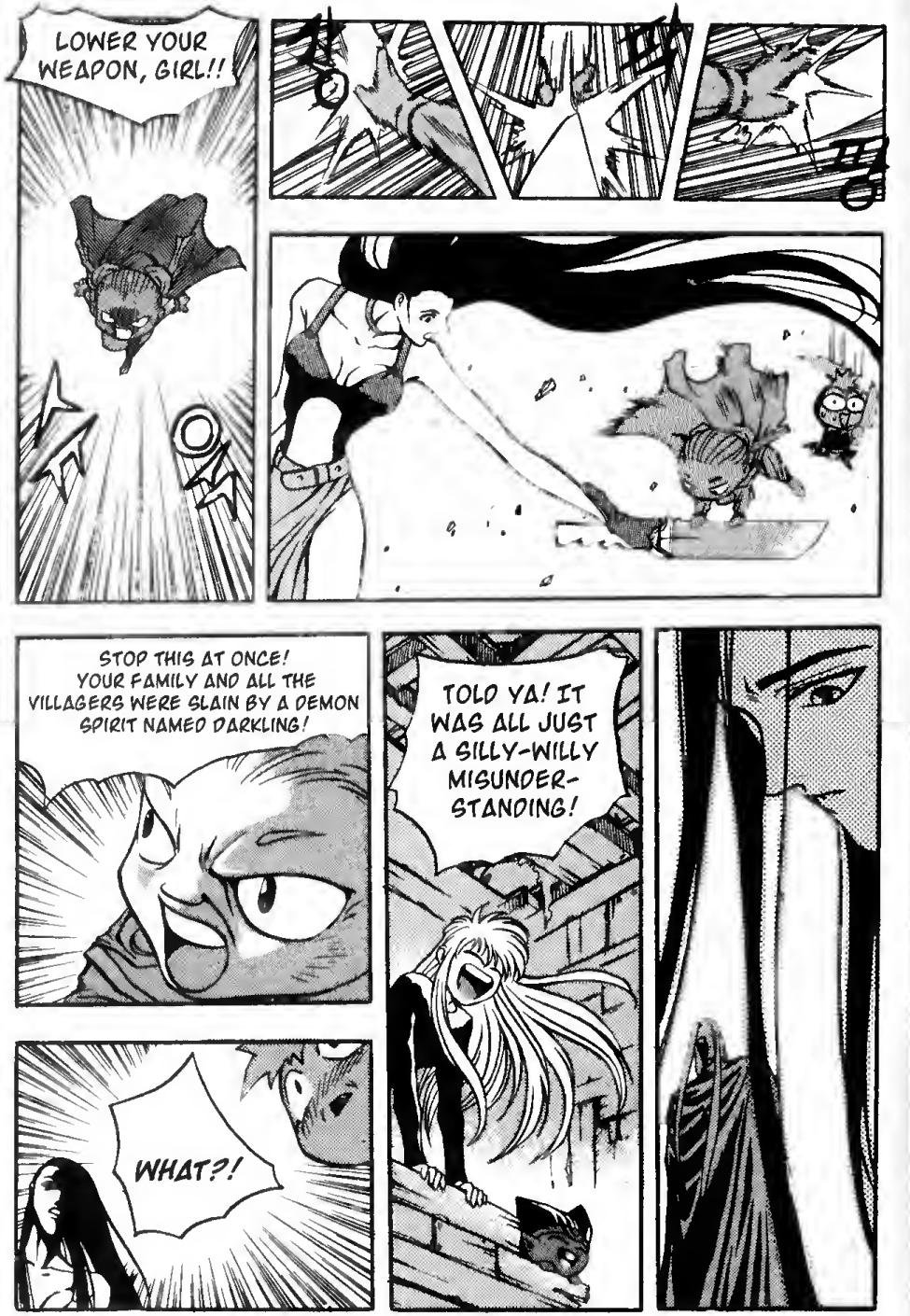
FOOLISH GIRL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE WHEN OUR PATHS FIRST CROSSED!!

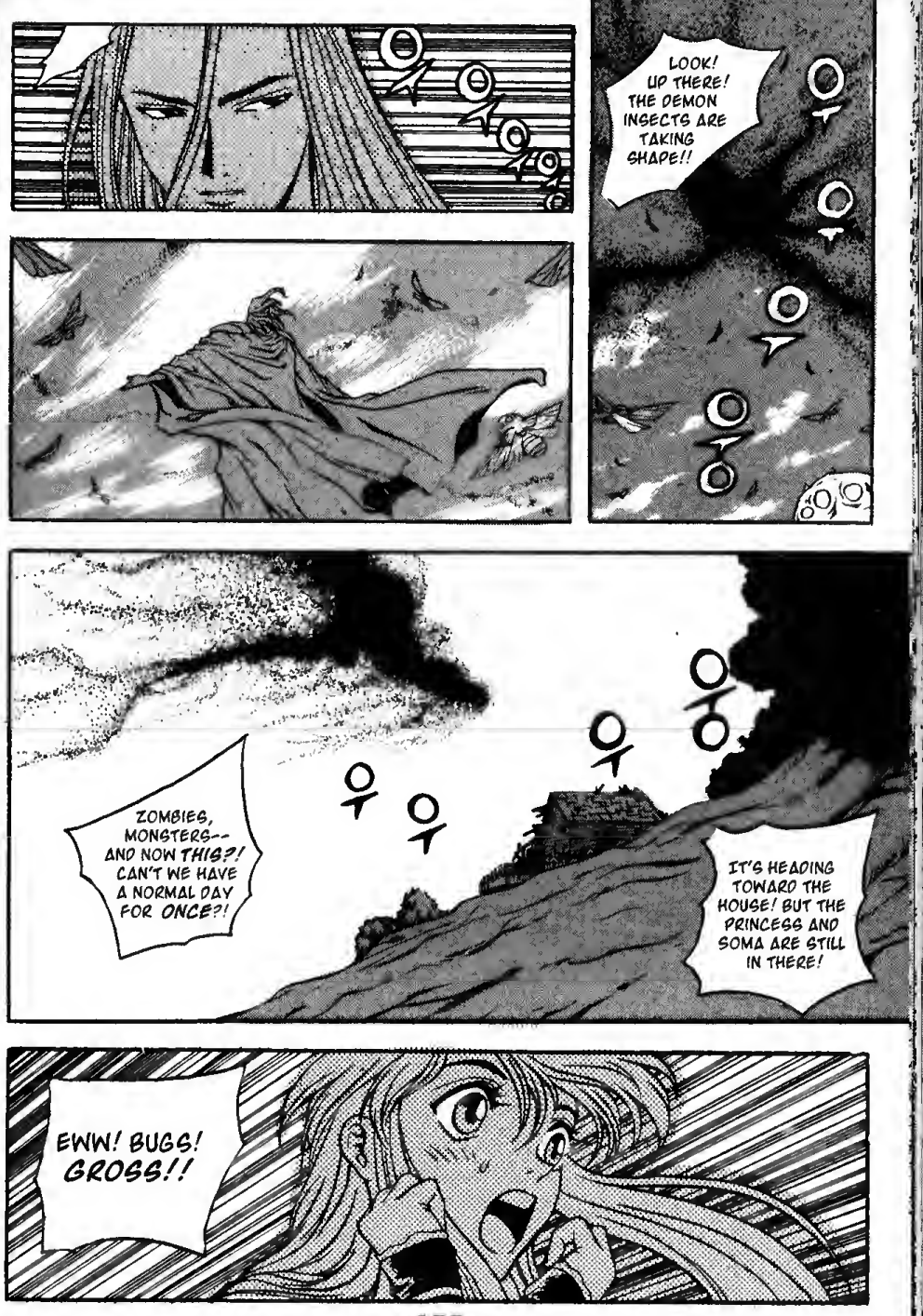
WHAT FOLLY IS THIS?! YOU WOULD KILL ME WITHOUT REASON?!
WHAT HAVE I DONE TO--
DON'T PLAY COY WITH ME!! YOU DARE FEIGN INNOCENCE WHEN YOUR HANDS ARE STILL WET WITH THE BLOOD OF MY FAMILY?!

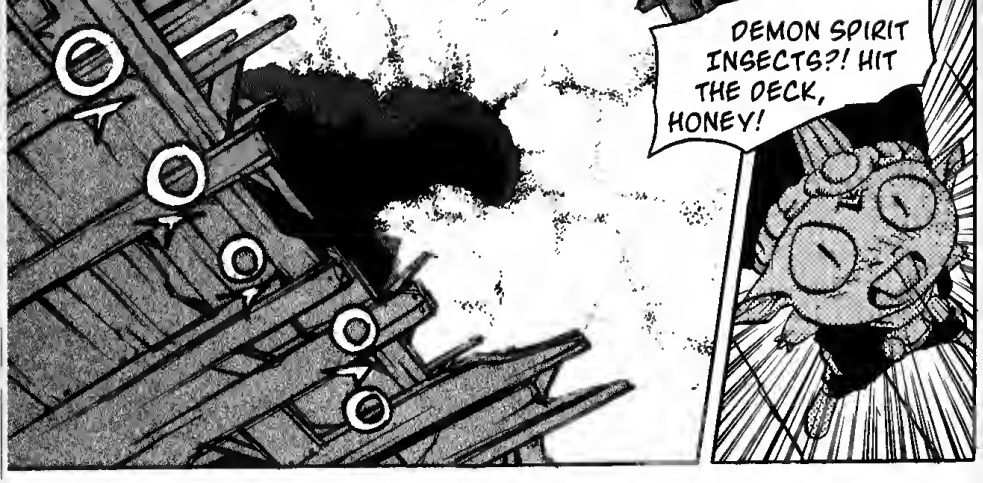
GENERAL SUMMER! GRANNY! WHOEVER YOU ARE! DO SOMETHING!!
WELL...I HAD PLANNED TO PSYCHICALLY BOND WITH THE ZOMBIES--UNTIL YOU INTER-RUPTED ME!!
THOUGH THEIR VOCAL CORDS MAY HAVE BEEN SILENCED...THEIR MEMORIES SPEAK VOLUMES!
MURDERED SOUL...BE AT PEACE...AND TELL ME YOUR TALE OF WOE!
AIIOIOIOI

LOUSY CREEP!! SURE, I MAY ROB PEOPLE--BUT LEAST I LET 'EM LIVE TO MAKE MORE MONEY FOR ME TO STEAL!!
OH-- AND GET A HAIRCUT!!
I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY!!
SPEAK TO ME, CHILD...
RELEASE YOUR PAIN... YOUR MEMORIES...SHOW ME YOUR KILLER...

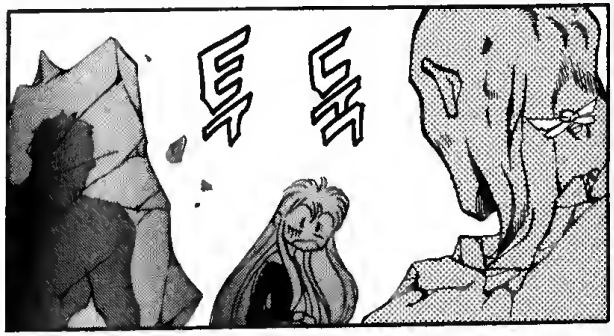
THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME...! THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS GAINING POSSESSION OF THE BLADE!
THOUGH...NOW THAT THE SWORD OF KWANGMA HAS APPEARED...
ARISE, MY PETS!!
ARISE AND SHOW THEM ALL YOUR TRUE FACE!!
STOP RUNNING AWAY AND FIGHT ME!!
I HAVE NO QUARREL AGAINST YOU TWO!
FAT NINJA!! WATCH OUT!!


LOWER YOUR WEAPON, GIRL!!
STOP THIS AT ONCE! YOUR FAMILY AND ALL THE VILLAGERS WERE SLAIN BY A DEMON SPIRIT NAMED DARKLING!
TOLD YA! IT WAS ALL JUST A SILLY-WILLY MISUNDER-STANDING!
WHAT?!


LOOK! UP THERE! THE DEMON INSECTS ARE TAKING SHAPE!!
ZOMBIES, MONSTERS-- AND NOW THIS?! CAN'T WE HAVE A NORMAL DAY FOR ONCE?!
IT'S HEADING TOWARD THE HOUSE! BUT THE PRINCESS AND SOMA ARE STILL IN THERE!
EWW! BUGS! GROSS!!


DEMON SPIRIT INSECTS?! HIT THE DECK, HONEY!

AHHHH!!

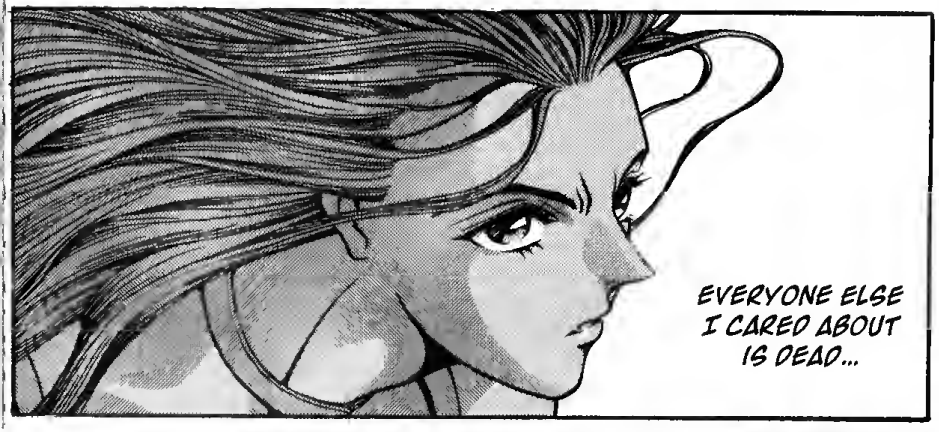


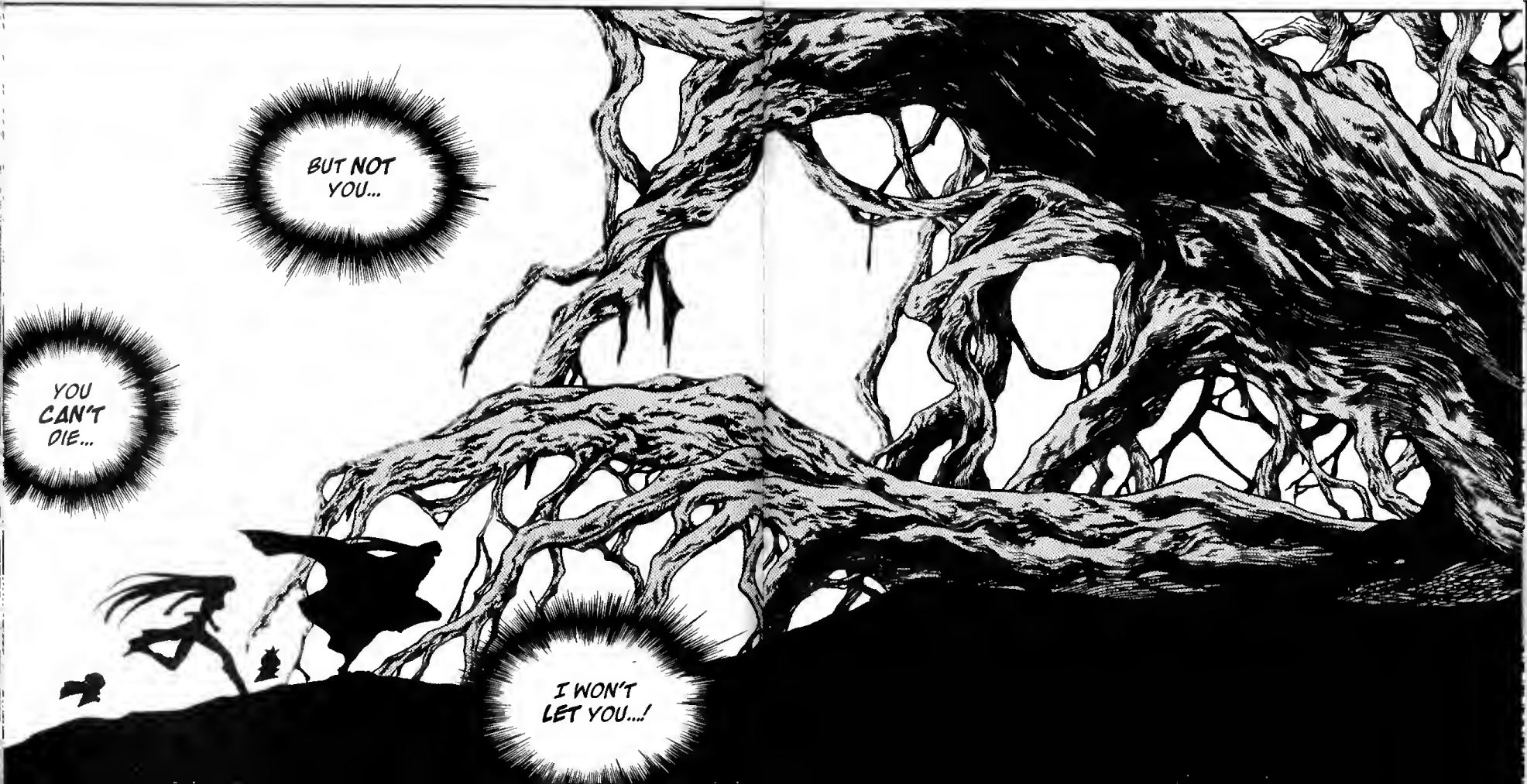
ZOMBIES! BUGS! ZOMBIE BUGS! SOMEBODY HELP!!

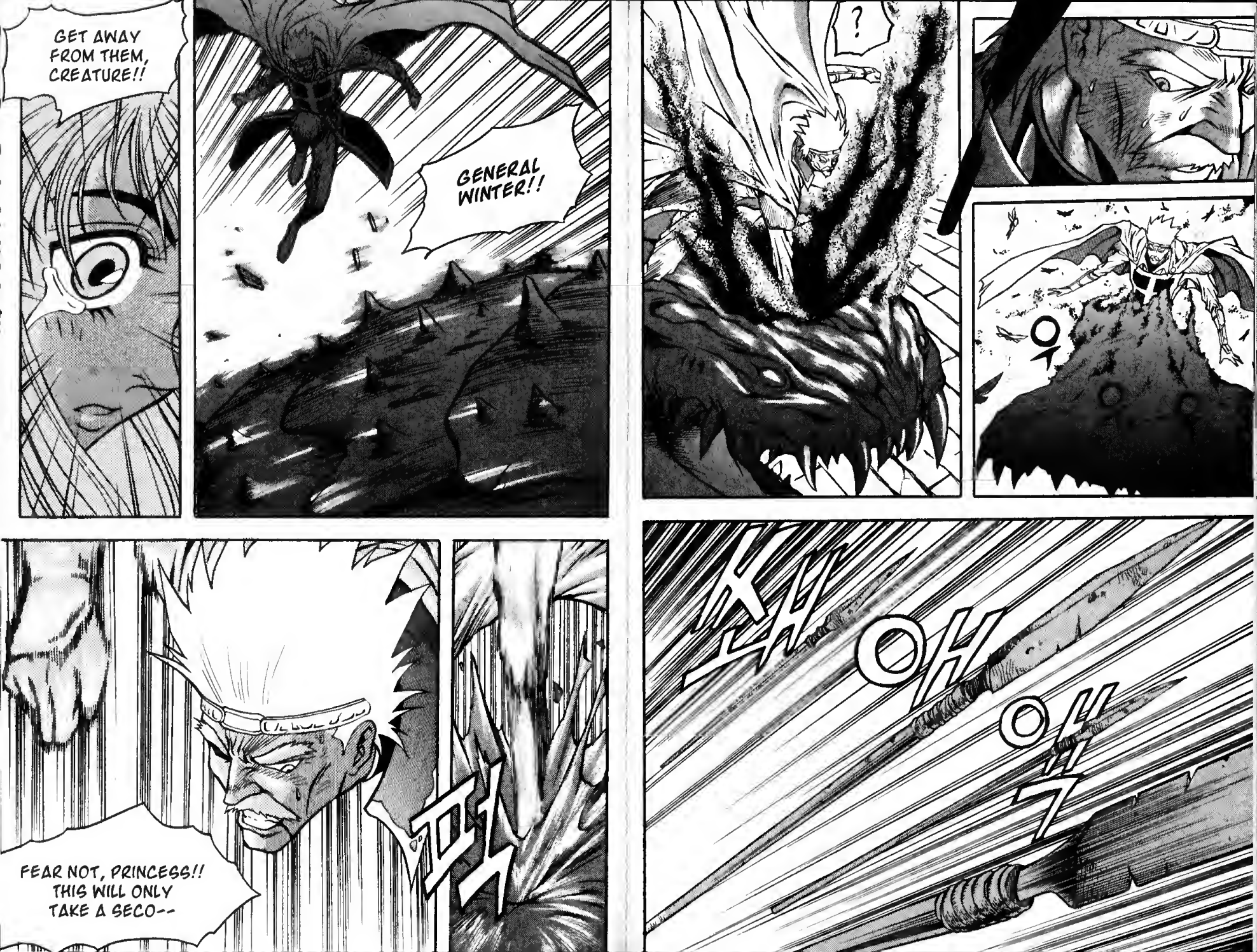
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! YOU WANT US DEAD! I GET IT!! GOSH...

SOMA...

YES...YES, MY PET! FEAST ON THEIR FLESH!!
NOOOO!!


EVERYONE ELSE I CARED ABOUT IS DEAD...


BUT NOT YOU...
YOU CAN'T DIE...
I WON'T LET YOU...!


GET AWAY FROM THEM, CREATURE!!
GENERAL WINTER!!
?
FEAR NOT, PRINCESS!! THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A SECO--
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KH
OH
OH
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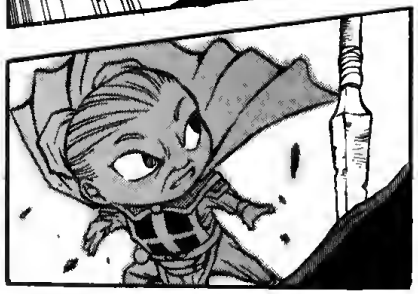
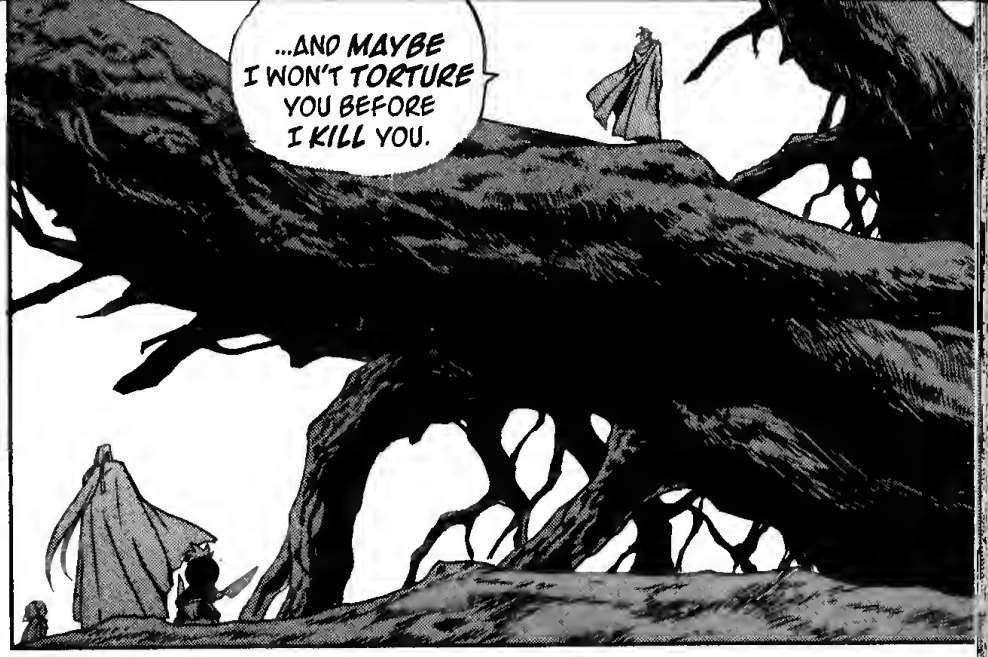
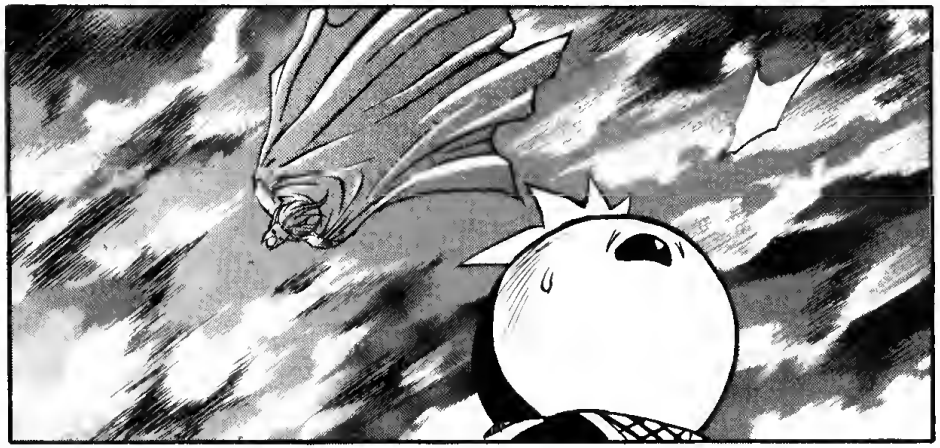
KA OM

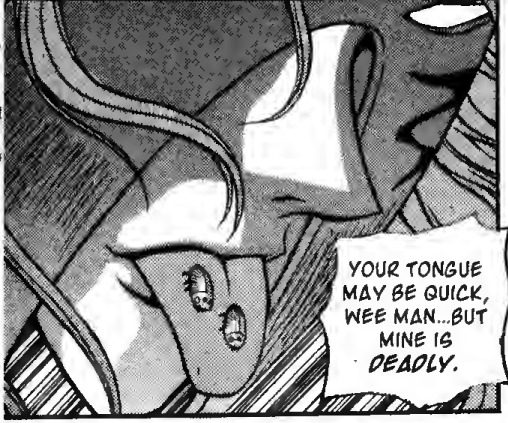


NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION... SURRENDER THE BLADE...


...AND MAYBE I WON'T TORTURE YOU BEFORE I KILL YOU.

YOU WANT A BLADE?! HERE'S TWO OF 'EM, CHUMPSTAIN!!



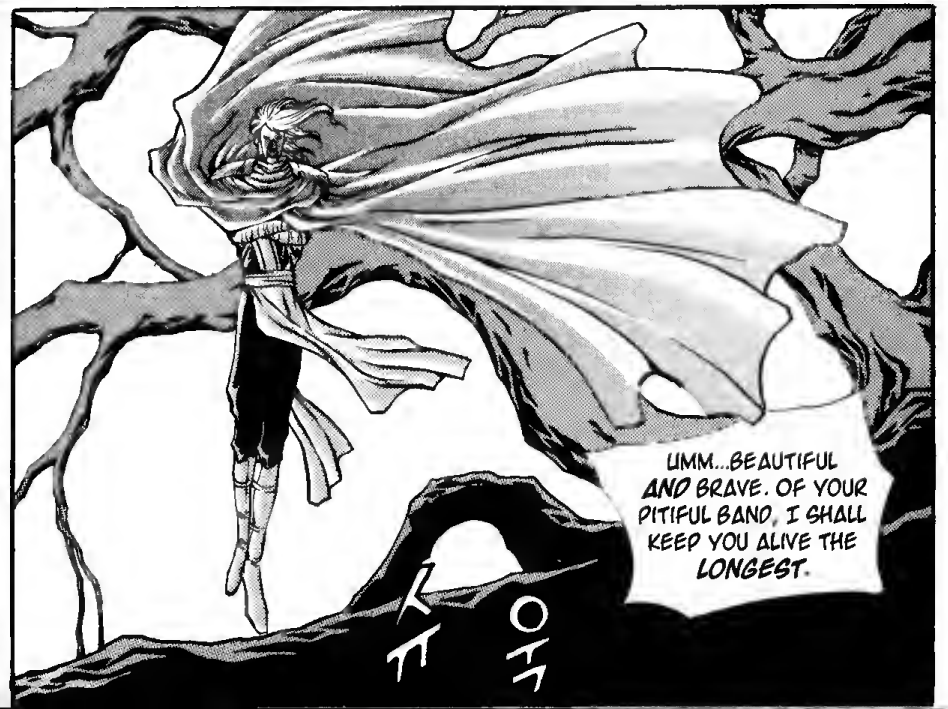

YOUR TONGUE MAY BE QUICK, WEE MAN...BUT MINE IS DEADLY.

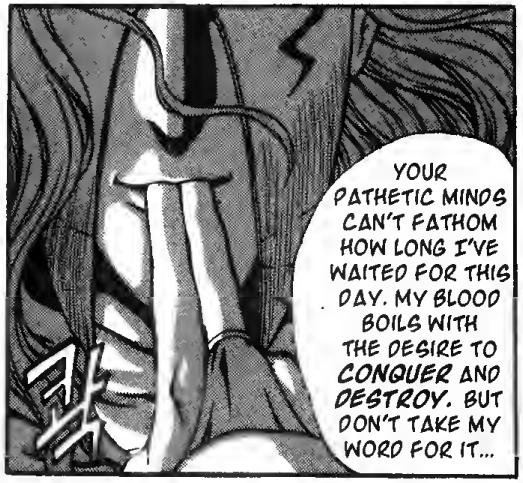
!

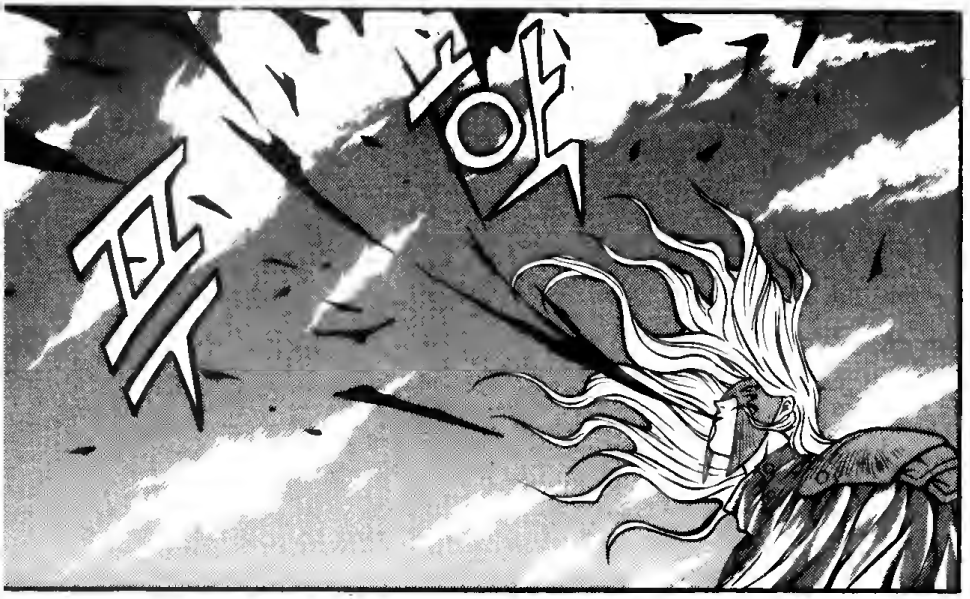
YOU PICKED THE WRONG DAY TO TICK ME OFF, DEMON!!

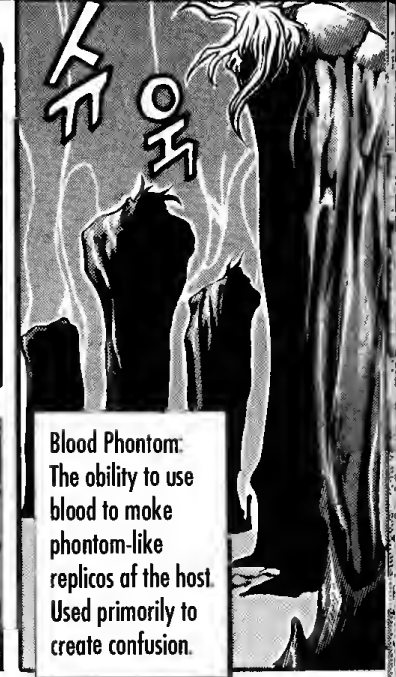
HARDHEADED GIRL! USE YOUR HEAD FOR ONCE! IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED, WE MUST ALL ATTACK TOGETHER!

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO, OLD WOMAN! I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! YOU JUST GO RESCUE THE OTHERS!

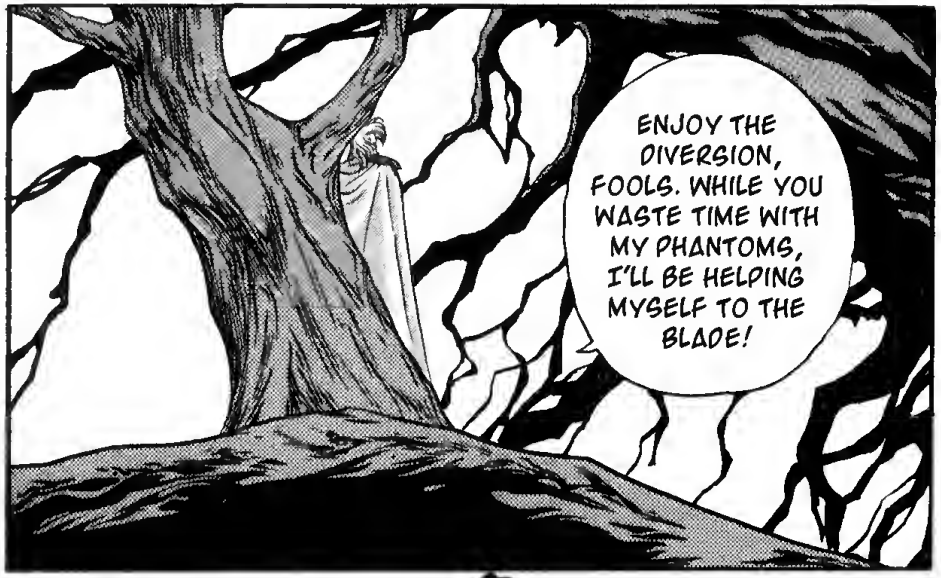

UMM...BEAUTIFUL AND BRAVE. OF YOUR PITIFUL BAND, I SHALL KEEP YOU ALIVE THE LONGEST.

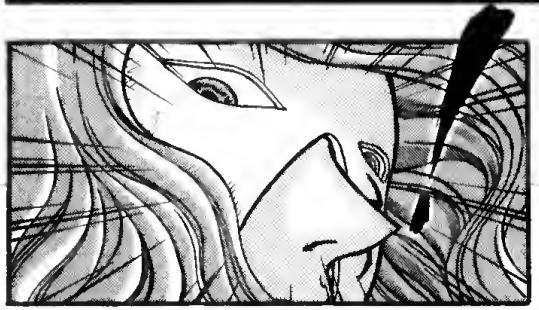


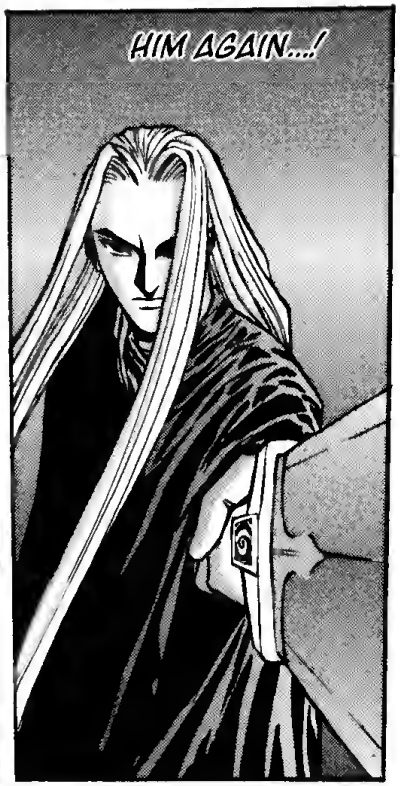




Blood Phantom: The obility to use blood to moke phontom-like replicos of the host. Used primorily to create confusion.


ENJOY THE DIVERSION, FOOLS. WHILE YOU WASTE TIME WITH MY PHANTOMS, I'LL BE HELPING MYSELF TO THE BLADE!

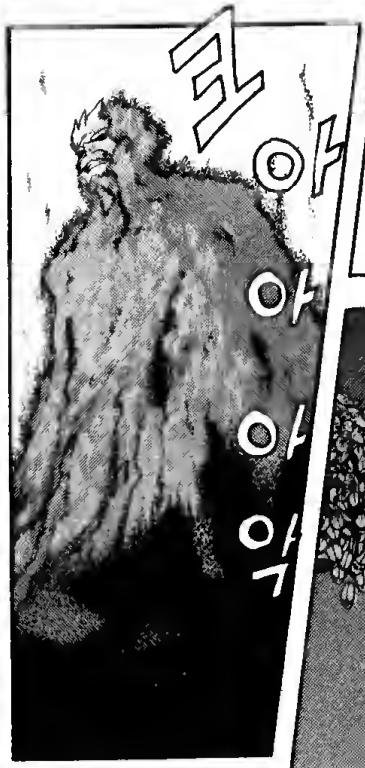



HIM AGAIN...!

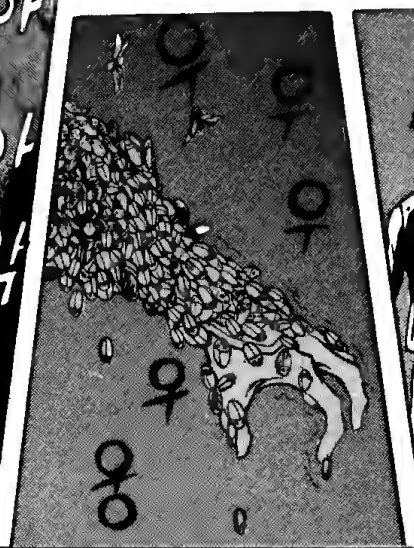
HE'S NOT WAVERING...! WHY DIDN'T HE TAKE THE BAIT?!

CAN IT BE...? THE SWORD IS SAID TO SUBJUGATE ALL EVIL...

IS THAT THE REAL POWER OF THE SWORD OF KWANGMA?!


으아아아

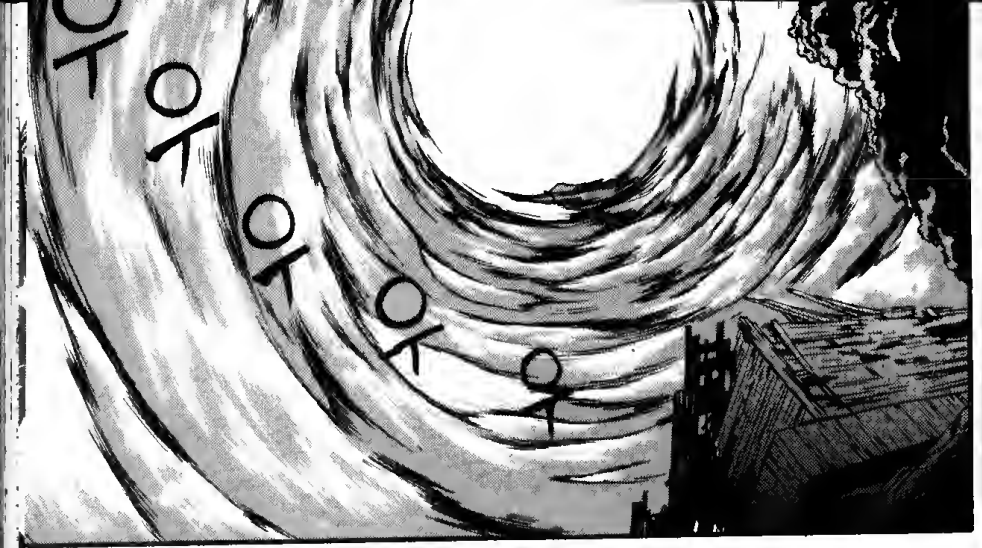
GENERAL!! NOO!!

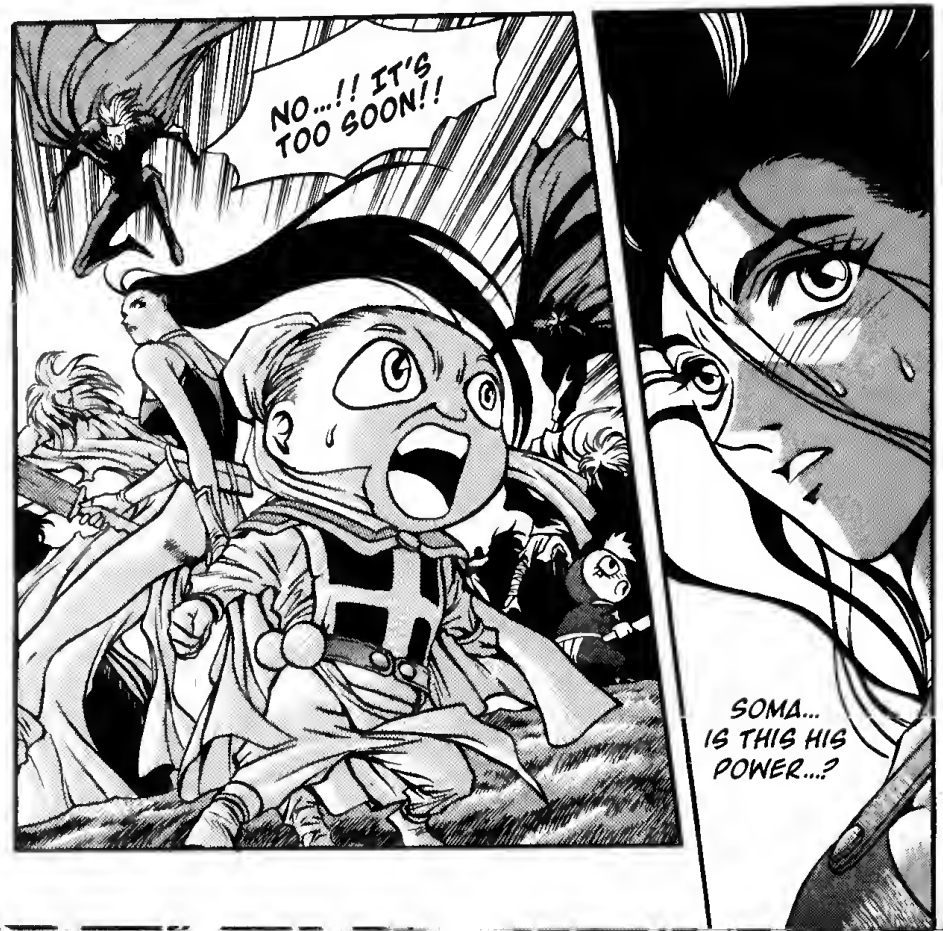


CHAEHA!
S-STOP IT!! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

SOMA...

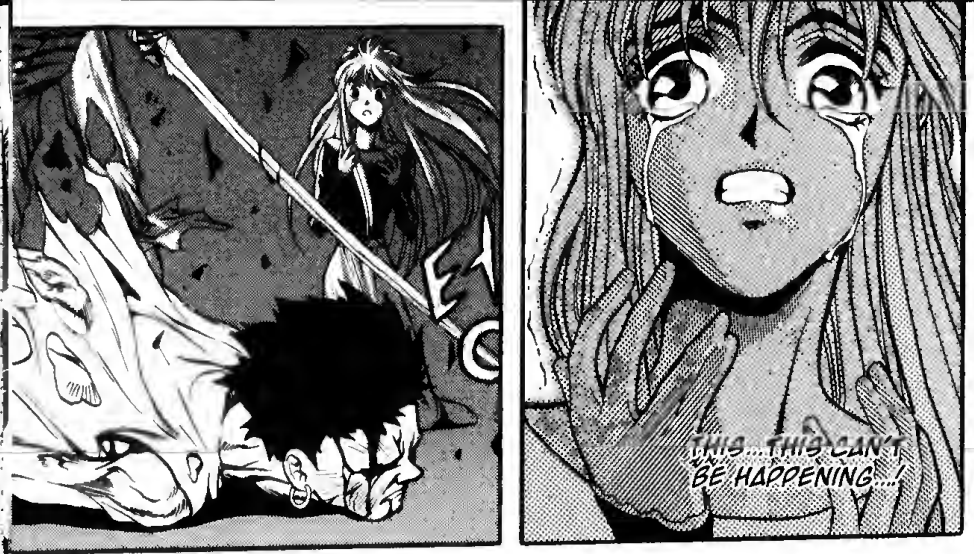
THE BLADE OF HEAVEN! IT'S AWAKEN-ING?!
SOMA....!


OK
OK
OK
OK

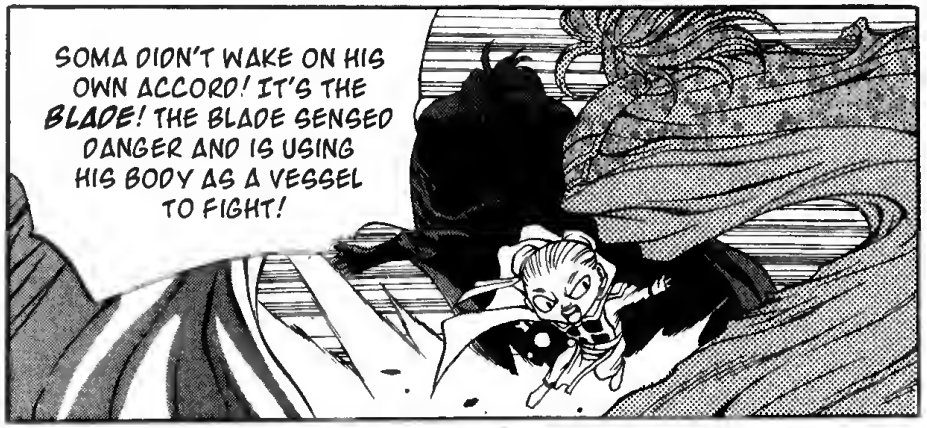

NO...!! IT'S TOO SOON!!
SOMA... IS THIS HIS POWER...?

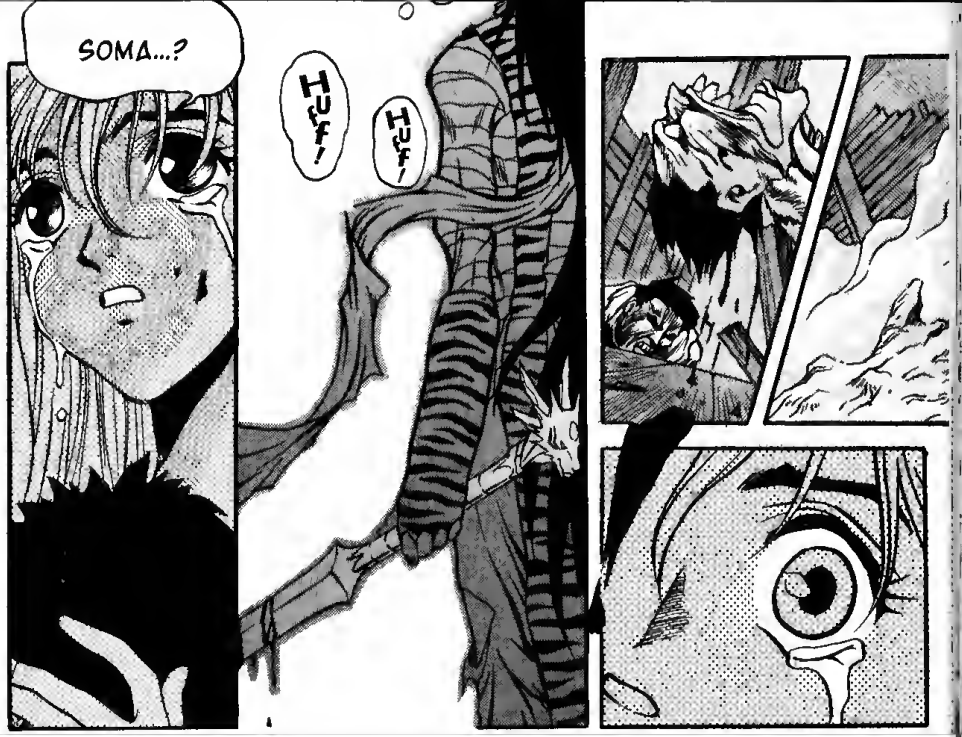
SOMA'S IN GRAVE DANGER!!
HUH?! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
OF

KA
KA


THIS...THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...!

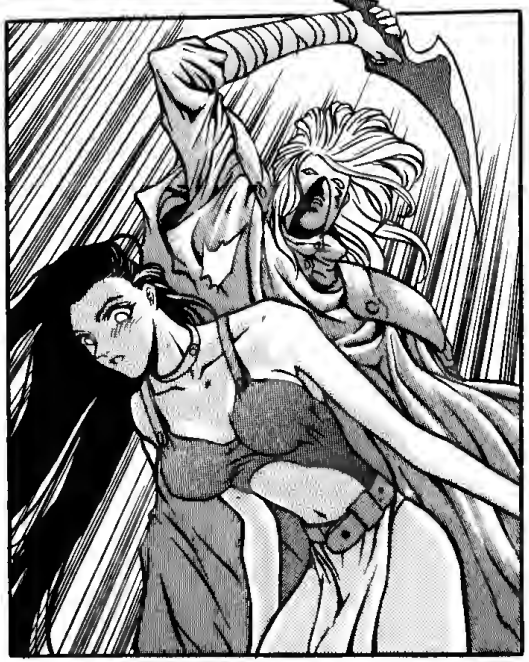
СНДЕНД...?

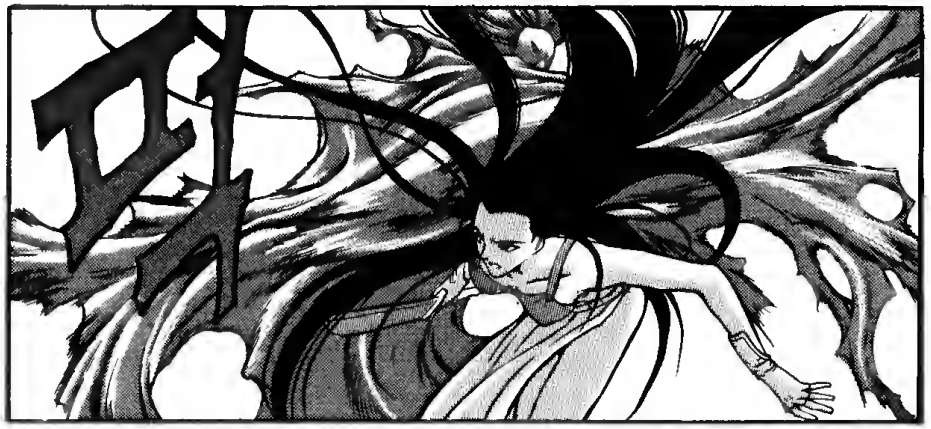

SOMA DIDN'T WAKE ON HIS OWN ACCORD! IT'S THE BLADE! THE BLADE SENSED DANGER AND IS USING HIS BODY AS A VESSEL TO FIGHT!

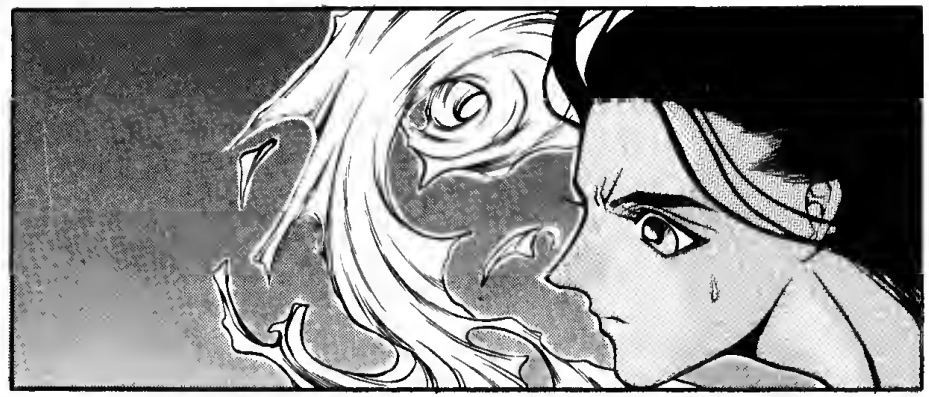

SOMA...?
HUFF!
HUFF!

EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE BLADE'S CHOSEN HOST, SOMA STILL DOESN'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO CONTROL IT YET!
HIS BODY IS ALREADY AT ITS LIMIT--SO IF HE UNLEASHES THE SWORD'S POWER AGAIN, HE WILL BE COMPLETELY DRAINED!!
HUFF!
PANT!

LOVE MUFFIN!! BEHIND YOU!!





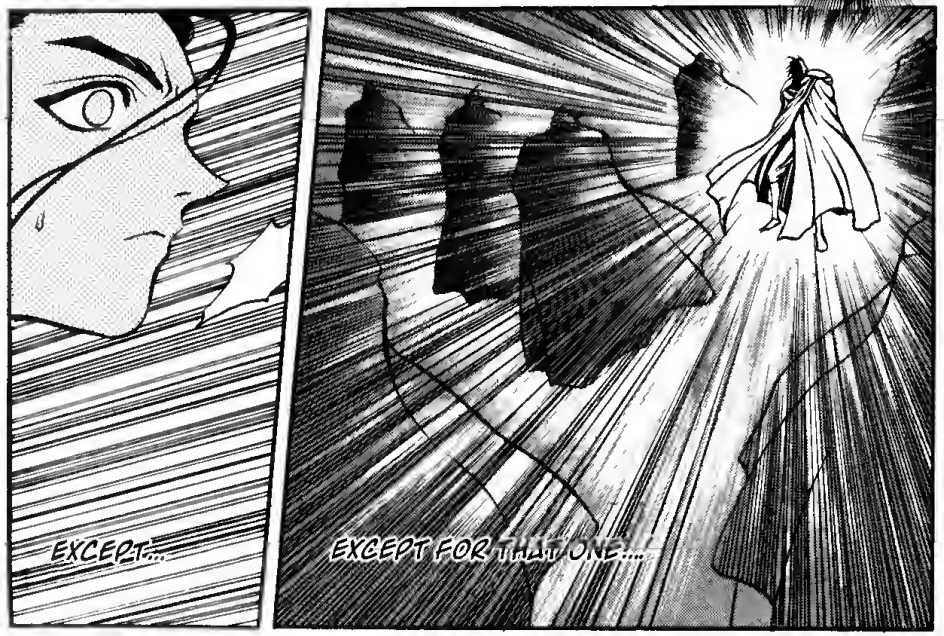


ANOTHER BLEEDIN' PHANTOM!!
MY TIME'S TOO VALUABLE TO BE WASTED ON THESE DEMON FARTS!!

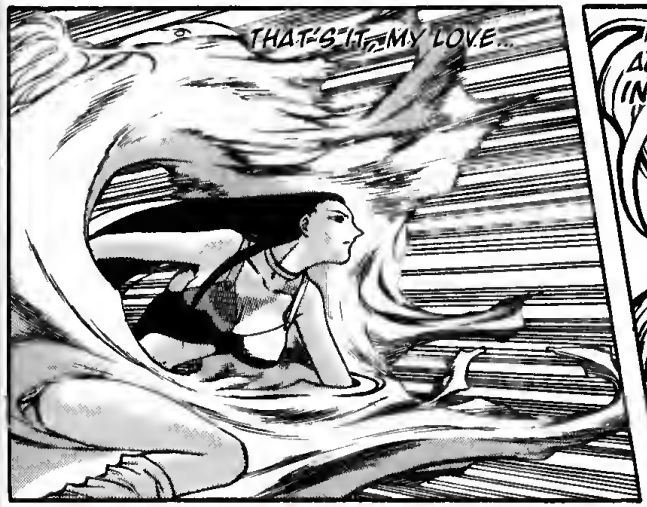
WAIT... TIME... THAT'S IT....! HE'S DISTRACTING US...!

He's fainting.

MERE PARLOR TRICKS...
IT'S NOT REAL...!
NONE OF THEM ARE REAL!!


EXCEPT...
EXCEPT FOR THAT ONE.....

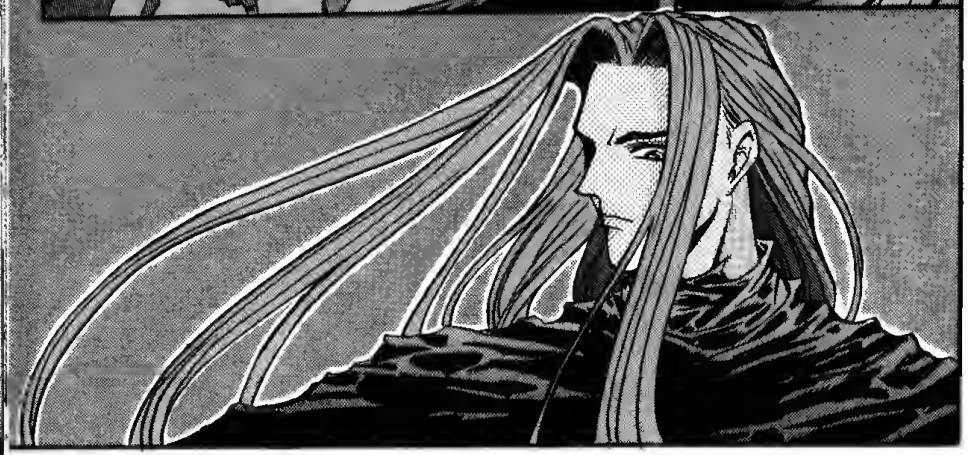
I SEE YOU, DEMON! YOUR HEAD IS MINE!!
YES...QUITE COURAGEOUS... AND QUITE STUPID. PITY I WON'T GET A CHANCE TO KNOW YOUR BODY BEFORE KILLING YOU. PERHAPS AFTER, THEN...


THAT'S IT, MY LOVE...

MY SWORD ACHES TO BE INSIDE YOU...

QUESTION--
ONCE
I KILL YOU...

...WILL YOU BE ABLE TO
RESURRECT YOURSELF?



RAARRGH!!

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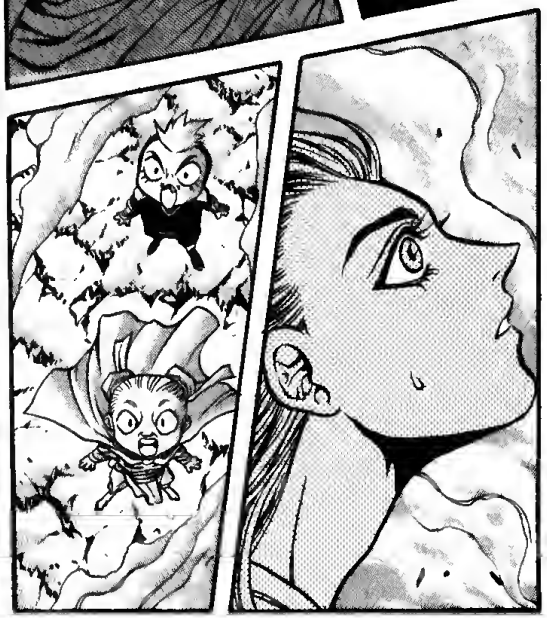

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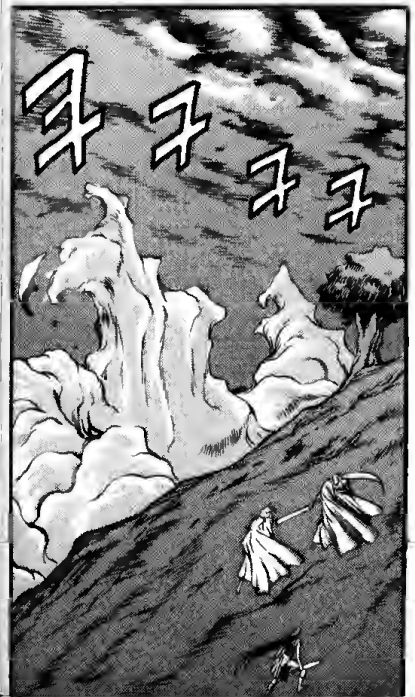
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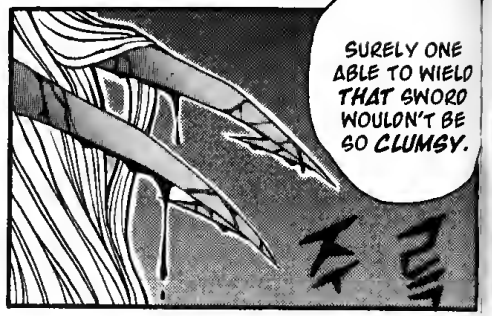
UHH...

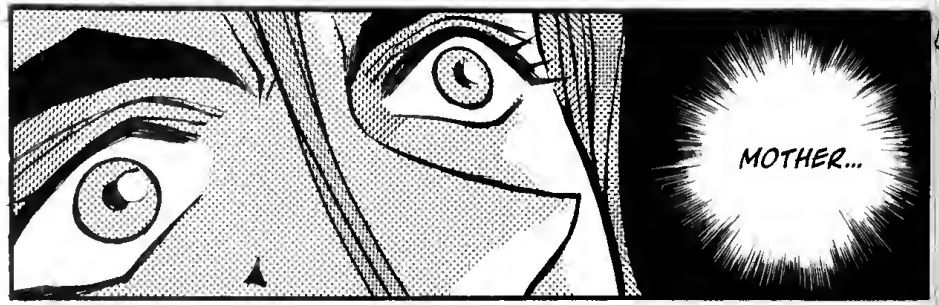
NO, MY PET! YOU MUST DISPERSE!
BUZZ

HOOOOO

WULMANG
DEMON
TECHNIQUE!!


SURELY ONE ABLE TO WIELD THAT SWORD WOULDN'T BE SO CLUMSY.

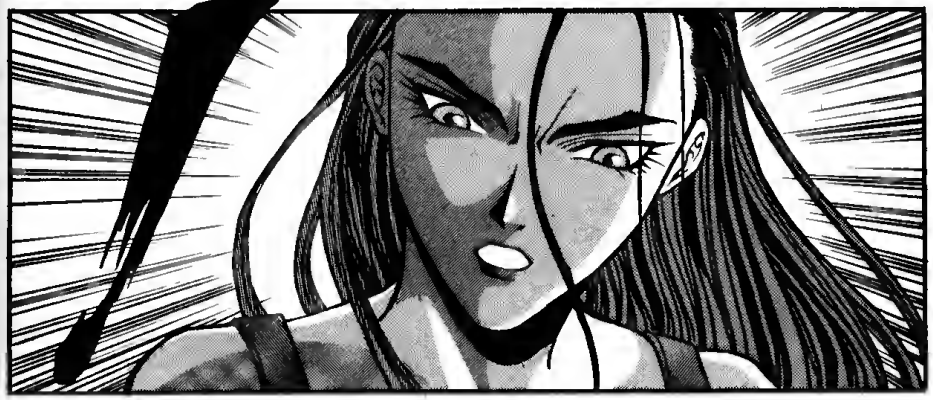
BUT THEN AGAIN...THE PRETTY ONES ARE NEVER VERY BRIGHT.

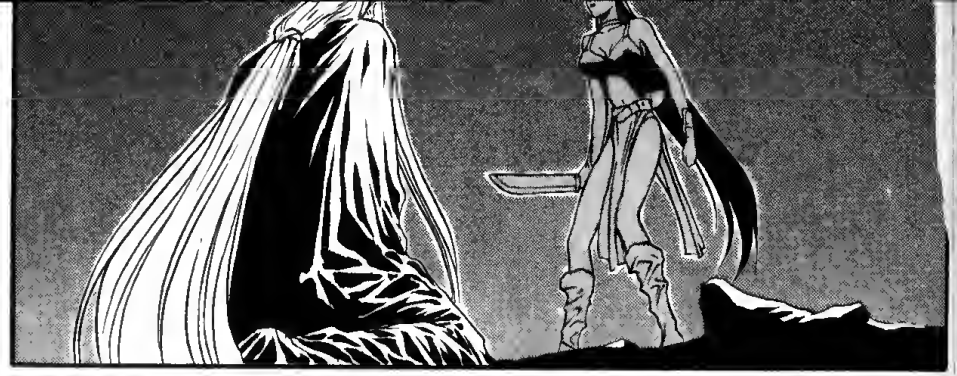

MOTHER...

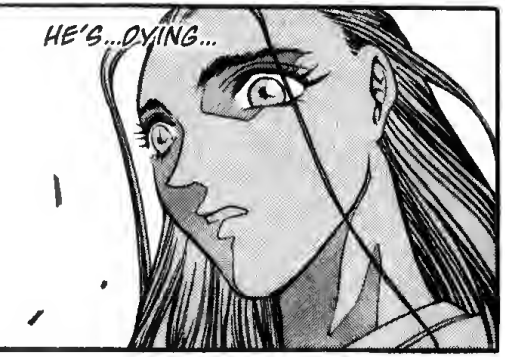
NO!! BASTARD!!

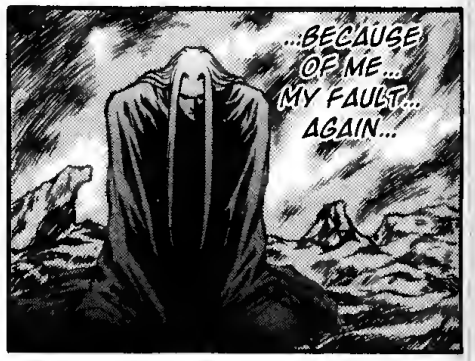
I'LL KILL YOU!!
OH... HOW SWEET.

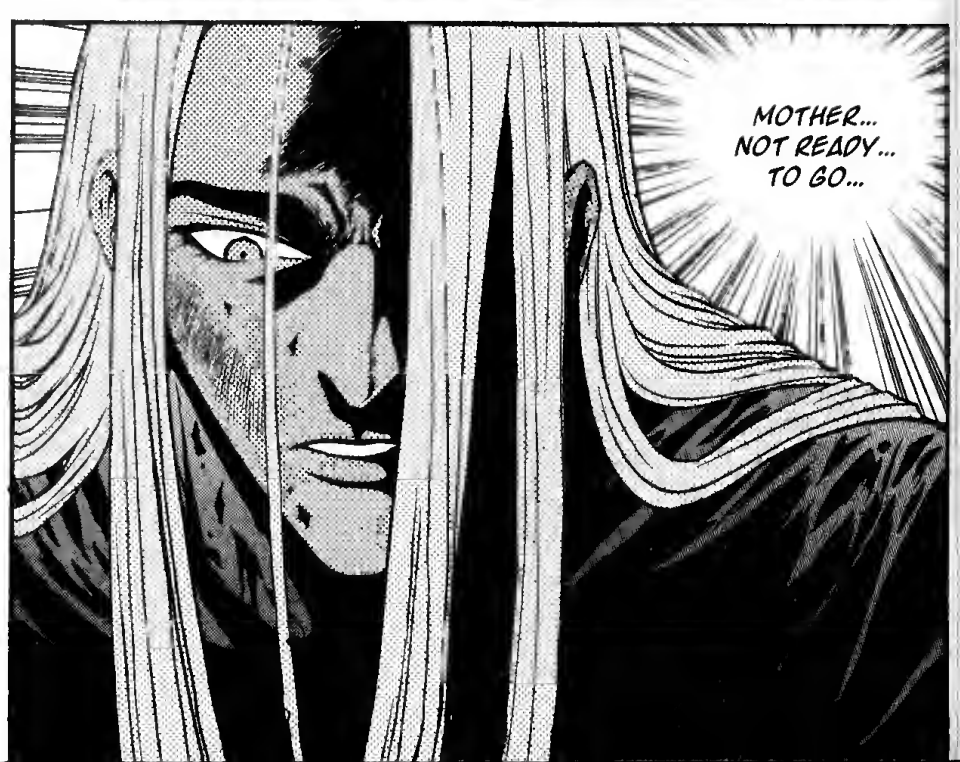
OUR FIRST FIGHT. AND ME WITHOUT A BOUQUET.






HE'S...DYING...

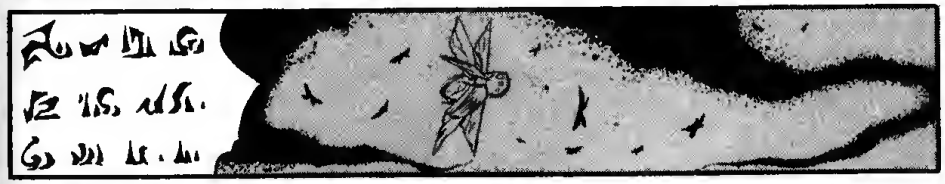

...BECAUSE OF ME... MY FAULT... AGAIN...


MOTHER... NOT READY... TO GO...

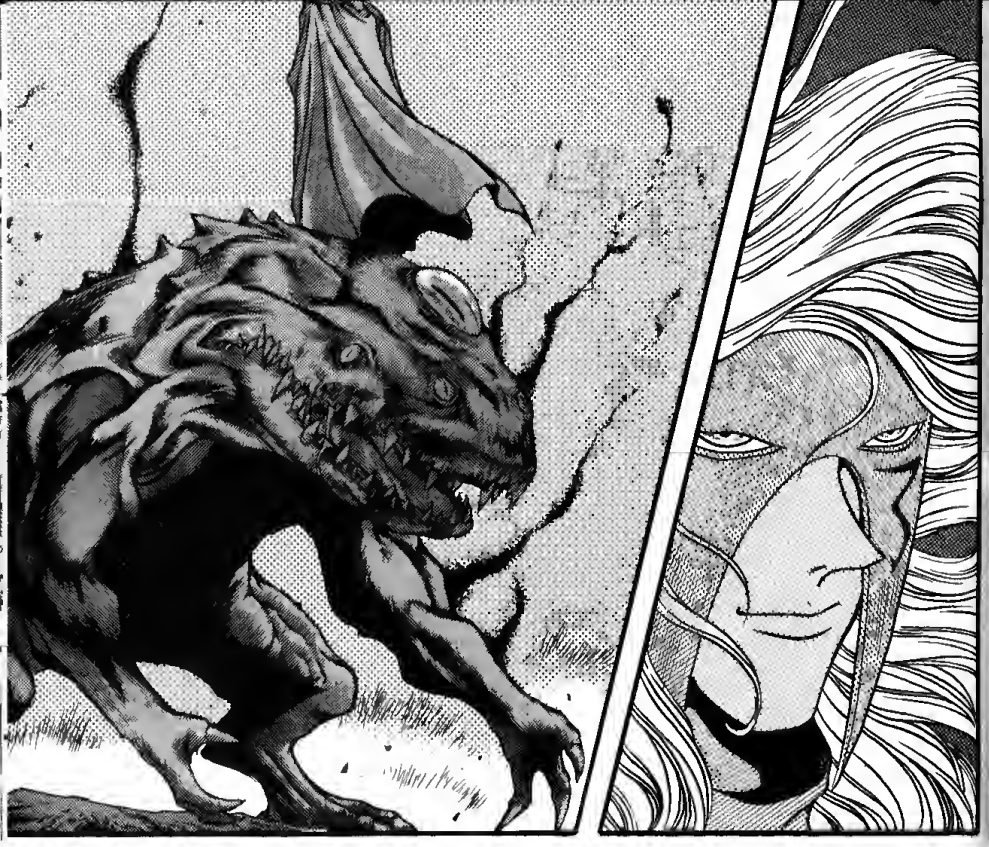
WHAT THE--?! THAT BUG THINGY IS STILL ALIVE EVEN AFTER ALL THAT?!

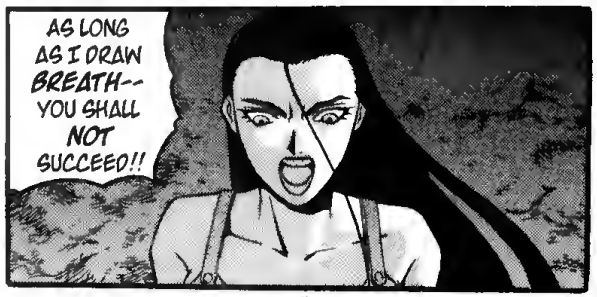
THE DEMON INSECTS THRIVE ON THE SOULS OF MURDER VICTIMS. OF ALL THE DEMON SPIRITS, IT HAS THE WEAKEST ATTACK.
ON THE OTHER HAND... ITS LIFE FORCE IS INCREDIBLY STRONG.

IT DOESN'T HELP THAT THEIR ENERGY IS FURTHER FORTIFIED BY WULYOHON'S INCANTATIONS!

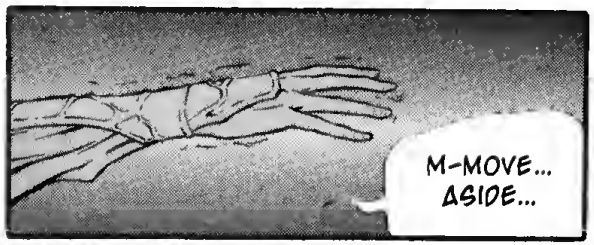


REGROUP, MY PETS! YOU STILL HAVE VERMIN TO KILL!!

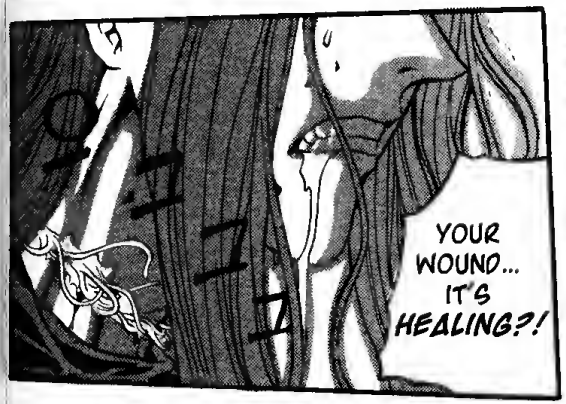



AS LONG AS I DRAW BREATH-- YOU SHALL NOT SUCCEED!!

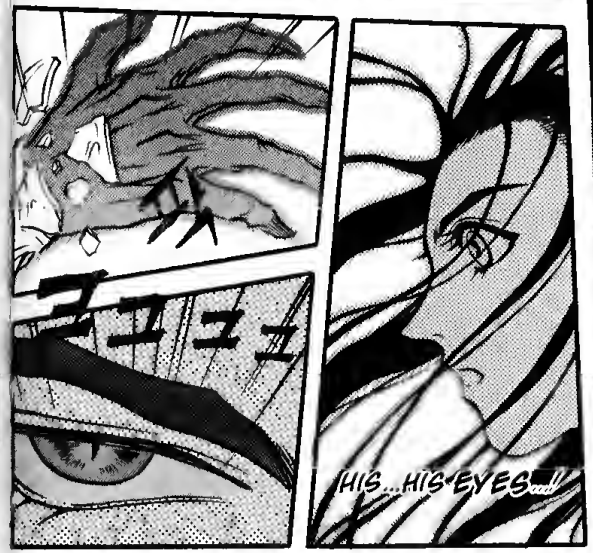
HUH?! NO!! YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO--


M-MOVE... ASIDE...

J-JUST DO IT!! I CAN'T...UNH... I C-CAN'T C-CONTAIN IT MUCH L-LONGER...!!


YOUR WOUND... IT'S HEALING?!

OH OH


HIS...HIS EYES...!!

!
...HE'S THE KWANGMA DEVIL!!
RYUHA!! LOOK OUT!!
WHAT?! HE'S...

KILL HIM, MY PET!!

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IMPOSSIBLE!! ONLY DEMON NOBILITY CAN BRING FORTH THE KWANGMA DEVIL!! HOW DID HE...?!
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NO!! DO NOT DISPERSE!! DO NOT--
NO!! IT'S NOT RESPONDING!!
MY CONTROL-- IT'S FALTERING!!
!

THE INSECTS ARE ATTACKING WULYOHON!!
THEY ARE?! WHAT GIVES?!
IF I'M NO LONGER CONTROLLING THEM--
--THEN THAT MUST MEAN HE IS!!
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE BOND BETWEEN THE EIGHT DISCIPLES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DEMON SPIRITS IS SUPPOSEDLY IMPENETRABLE!!
THIS DEFIES ALL LOGIC!! HOW COULD HE HAVE WRENCHED THE REINS AWAY FROM ME IN SUCH A MANNER?!

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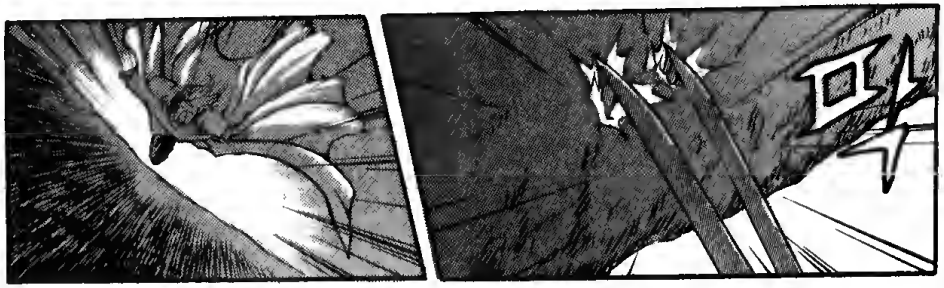
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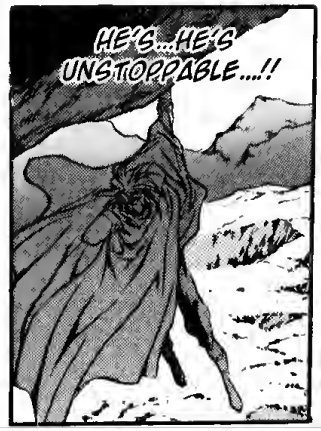
HE'S...HE'S UNSTOPPABLE...!!

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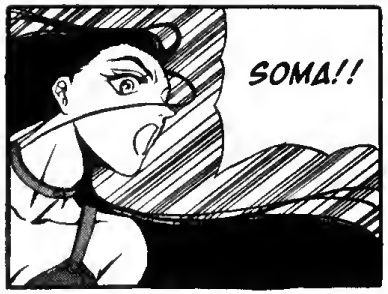
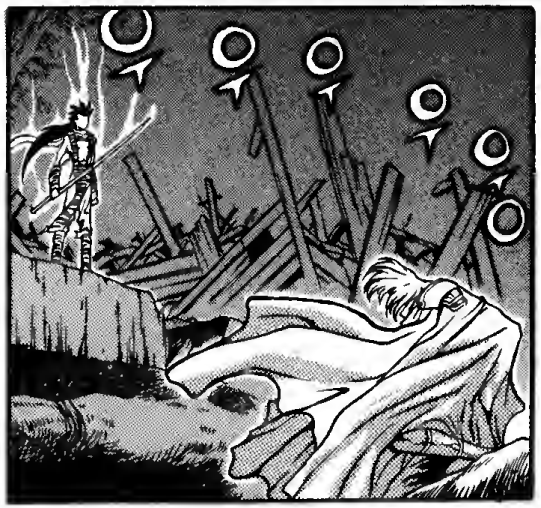
HE DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO USE INCANTATIONS!

HE NEED ONLY GLANCE IN THEIR DIRECTION...!

HE TRULY IS... EVIL INCARNATE!!


SOMA!!



IS THAT...?!
IT IS!
THE BLADE OF HEAVEN!!

NO!! I REFUSE TO DIE!! NOT NOW!! NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE...!!

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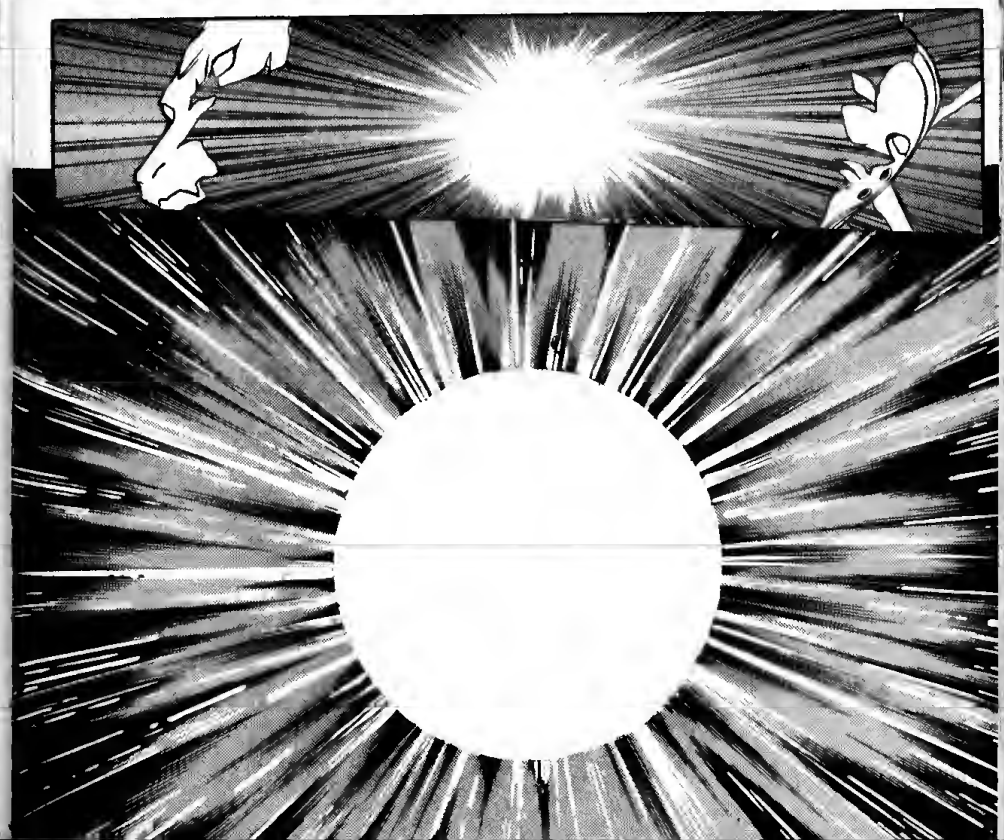
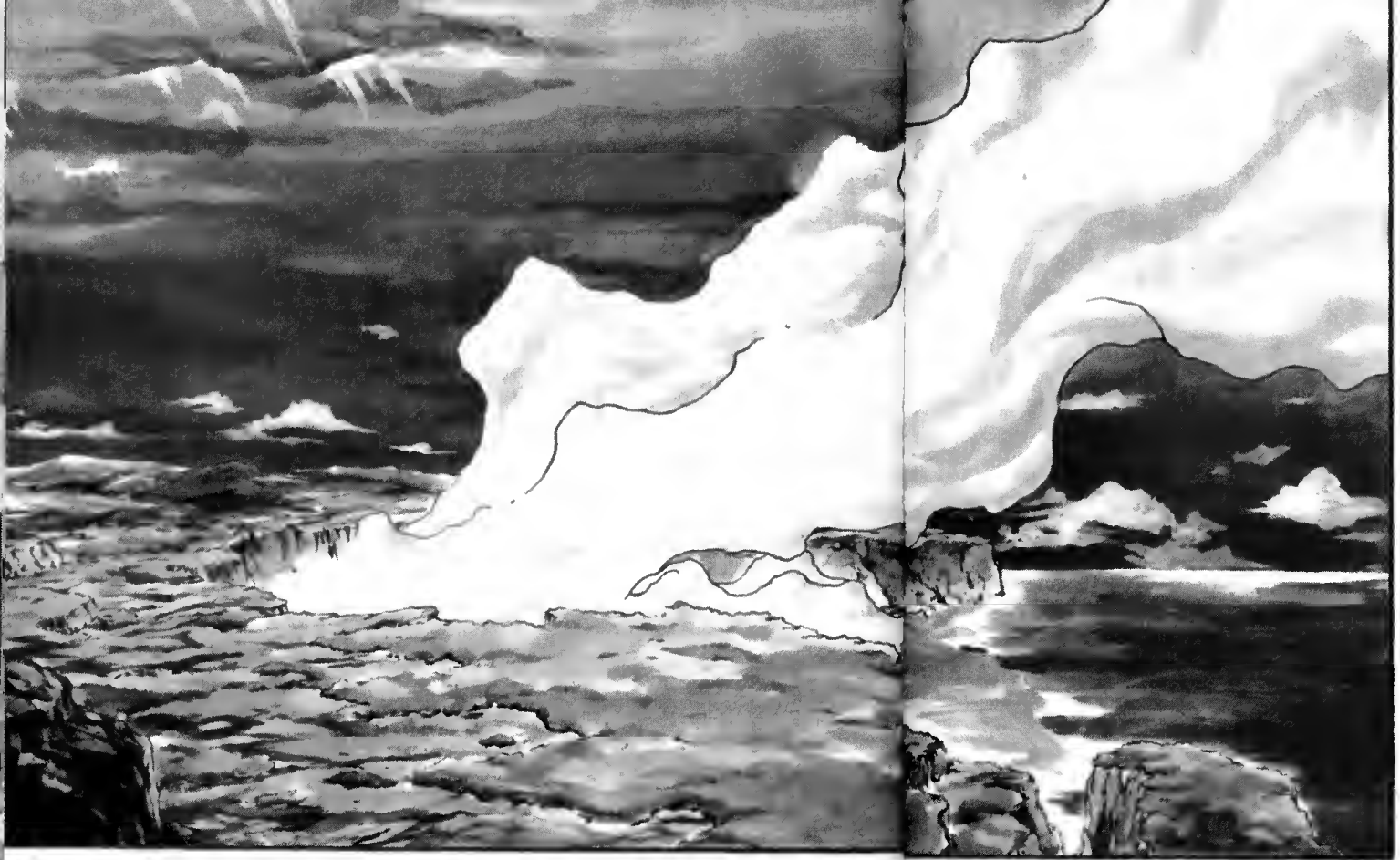
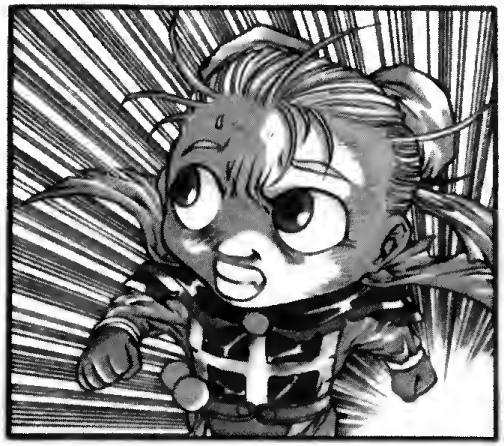


EXILE

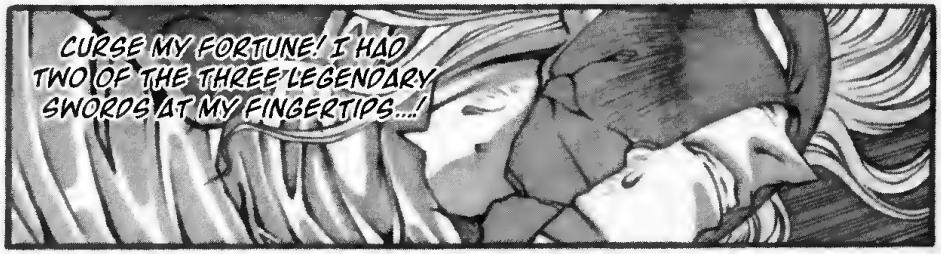


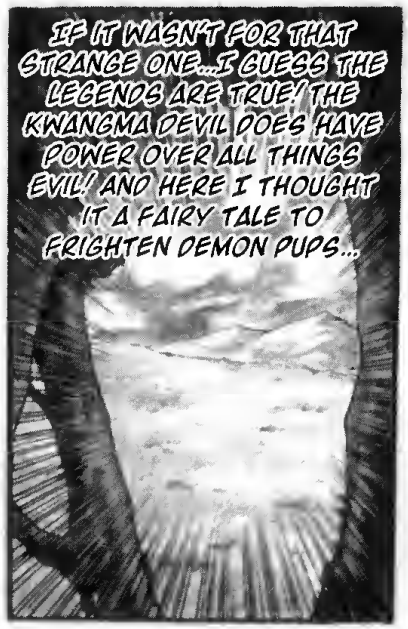
SOMA...?

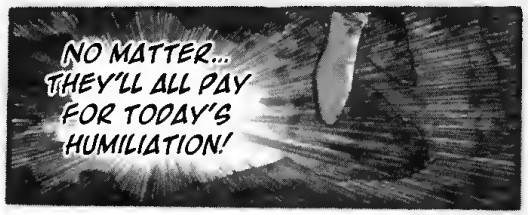
PRINCESS AROOMEE?



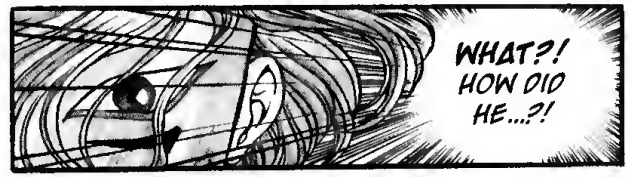
PLEASE DON'T BE DEAD...!


CURSE MY FORTUNE! I HAD TWO OF THE THREE LEGENDARY SWORDS AT MY FINGERTIPS...!

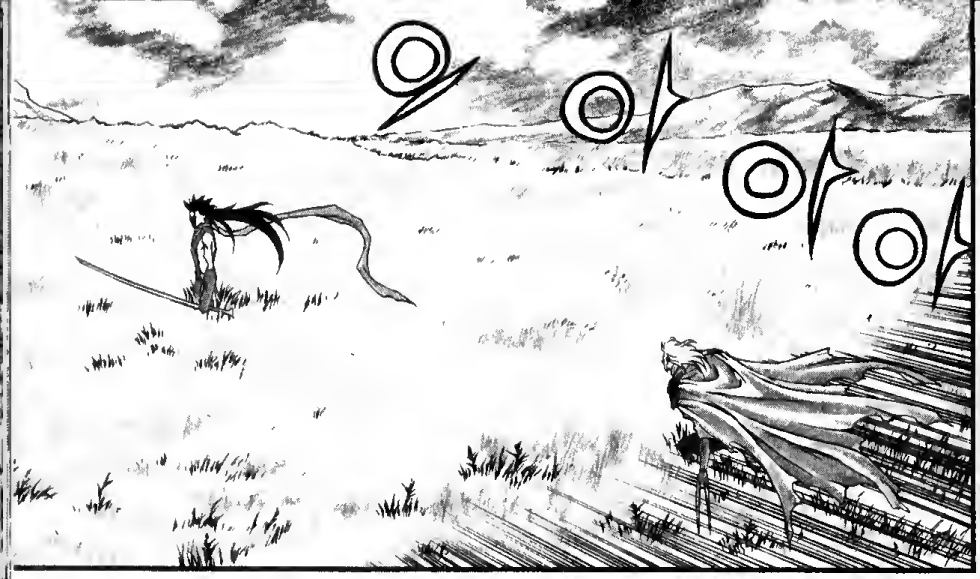

IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT STRANGE ONE...I GUESS THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE! THE KWANGMA DEVIL DOES HAVE POWER OVER ALL THINGS EVIL! AND HERE I THOUGHT IT A FAIRY TALE TO FRIGHTEN DEMON PUPS...

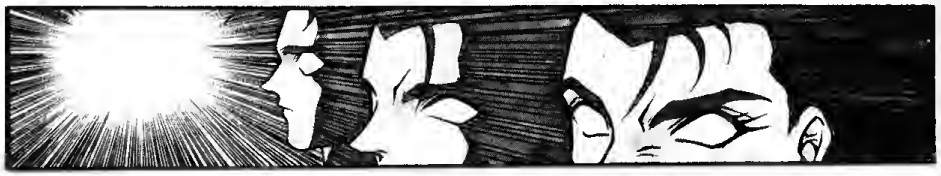

NO MATTER... THEY'LL ALL PAY FOR TODAY'S HUMILIATION!

!

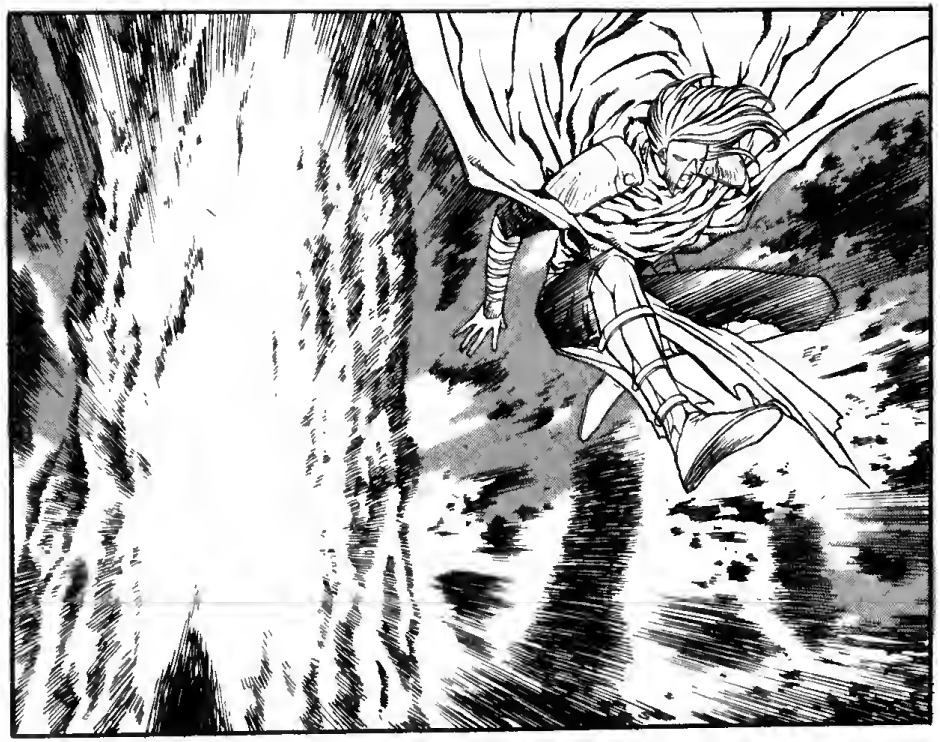

WHAT?! HOW DID HE...?!

FINE!! IF YOU INSIST ON DYING TODAY, THEN ALLOW ME TO INDULGE YOU!!





WHAT'S HE--?! FORMLESS SWORD ENERGY?!

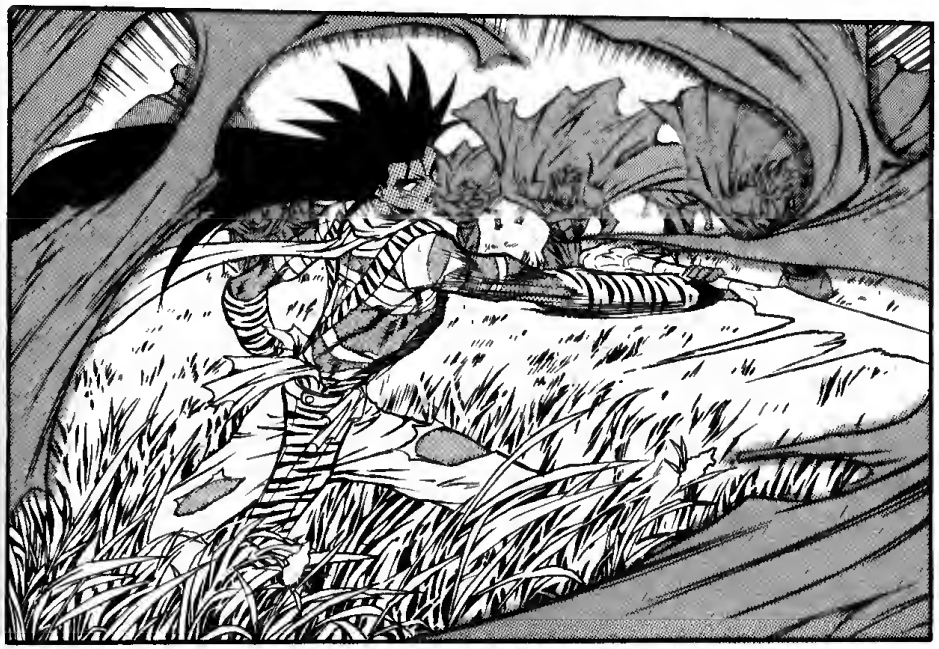


!
BLOOD PHANTOMS!! ATTACK!!

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING AND SEARCHING... BUT STILL NO SIGN OF THEM...
RYUHA...! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
SOMA... WULYOHON... THE STRANGER... ALL GONE.
THE STRANGER...!

NEVER FEAR!
I'M RIGHT HERE!
I'M NO "STRANGER" TO YOU! ACTUALLY, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU CALL ME--AS LONG YOU LET ME WORSHIP AT THE ALTAR OF THE TWIN SHIVAS!

PERVERT! NO ONE'S TALKING ABOUT YOU!!
STOP, YOU OLD BAG! I'M IN MY HAPPY PLACE!!



I'LL STRIKE ONCE THESE PHANTOMS HAVE EXPENDED THE BOY'S ENERGY!

HEH HEH HEH! THAT'S IT, BOY... FIGHT THE WISPS OF MY IMAGINATION...

THE MORE ENERGY YOU WASTE, THE LONGER IT'LL TAKE FOR YOU TO RECUPERATE!

EVERY SWING YOU TAKE IS ANOTHER **NAIL** IN YOUR **COFFIN!**

HUFF

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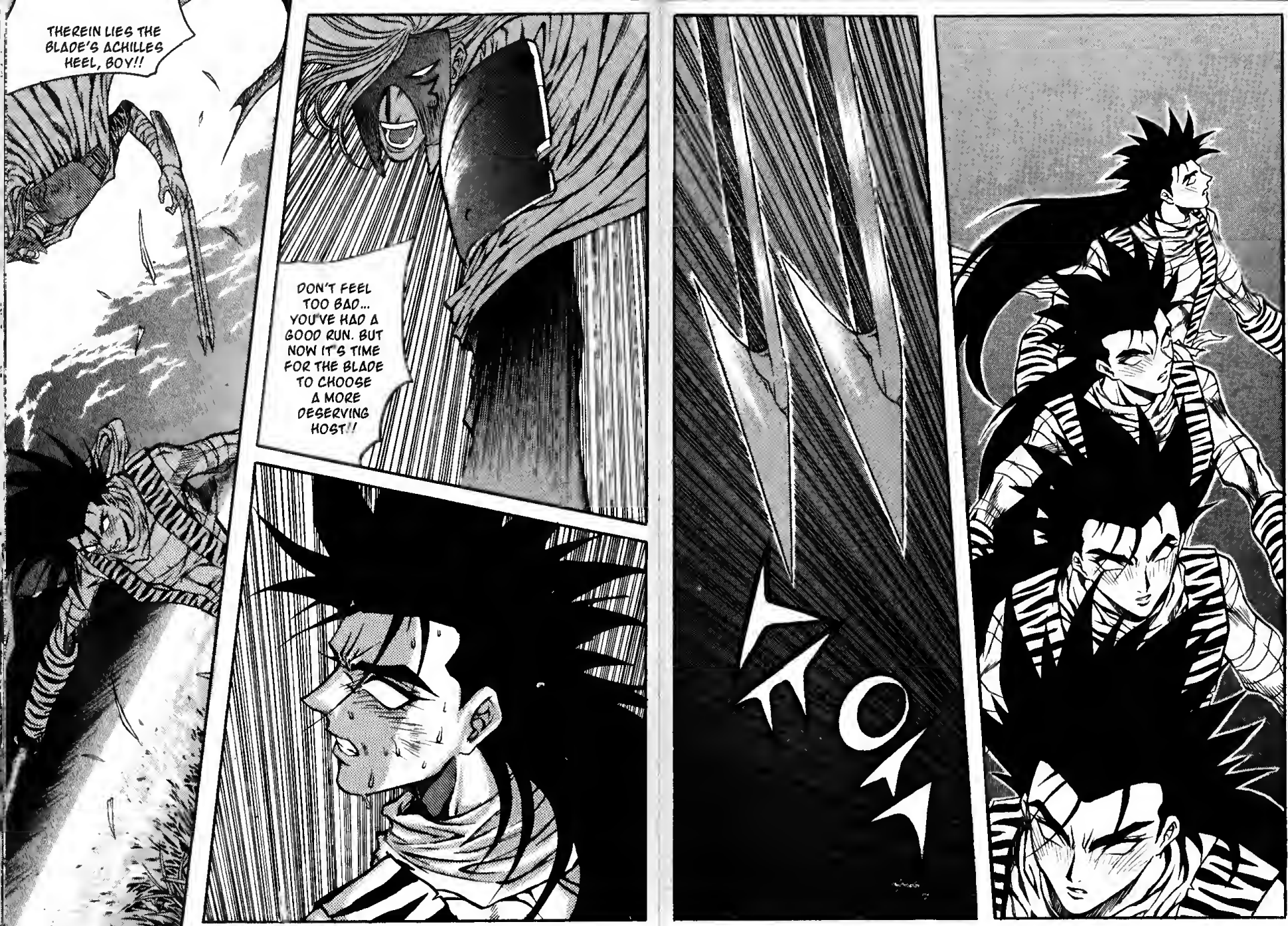
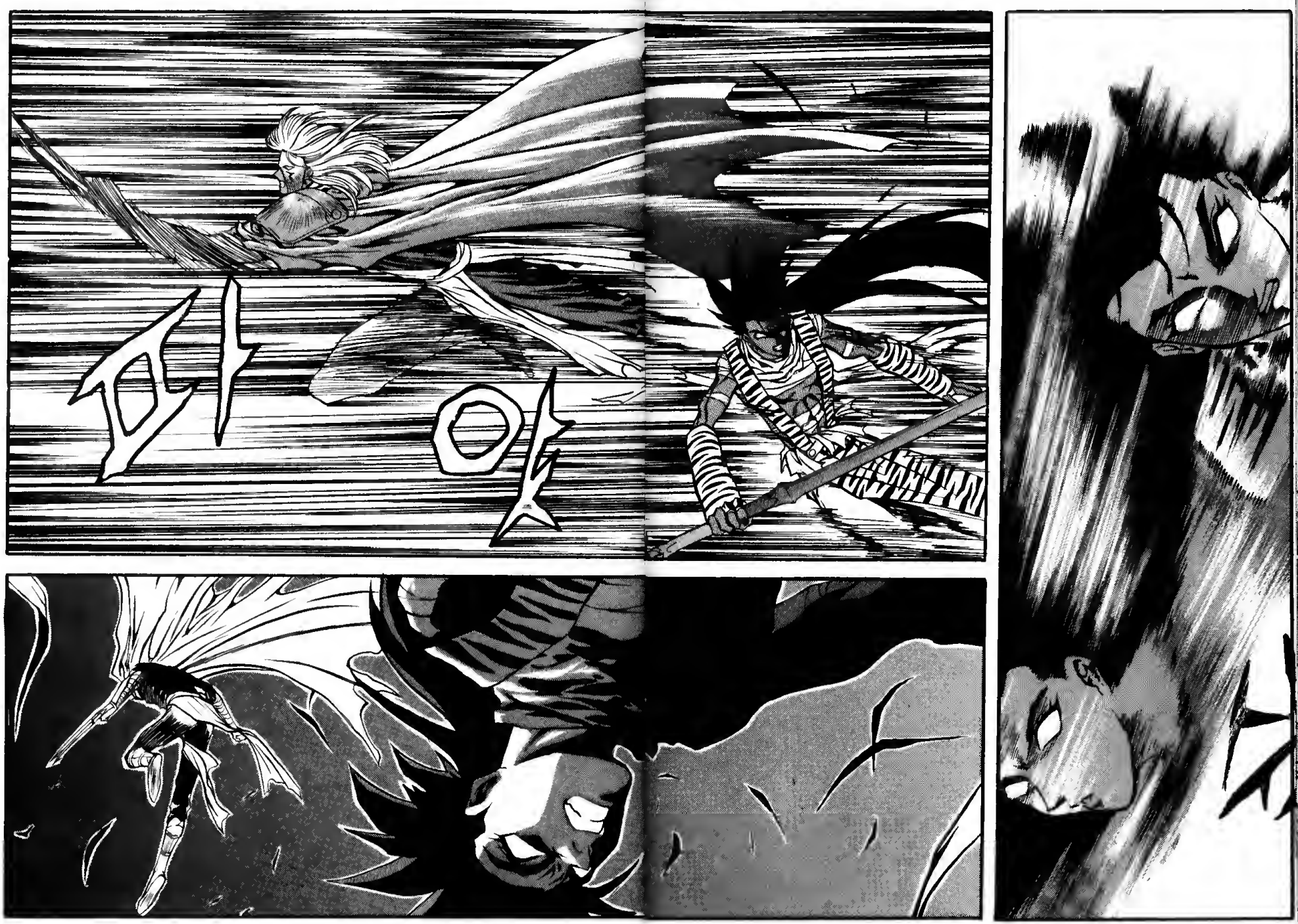
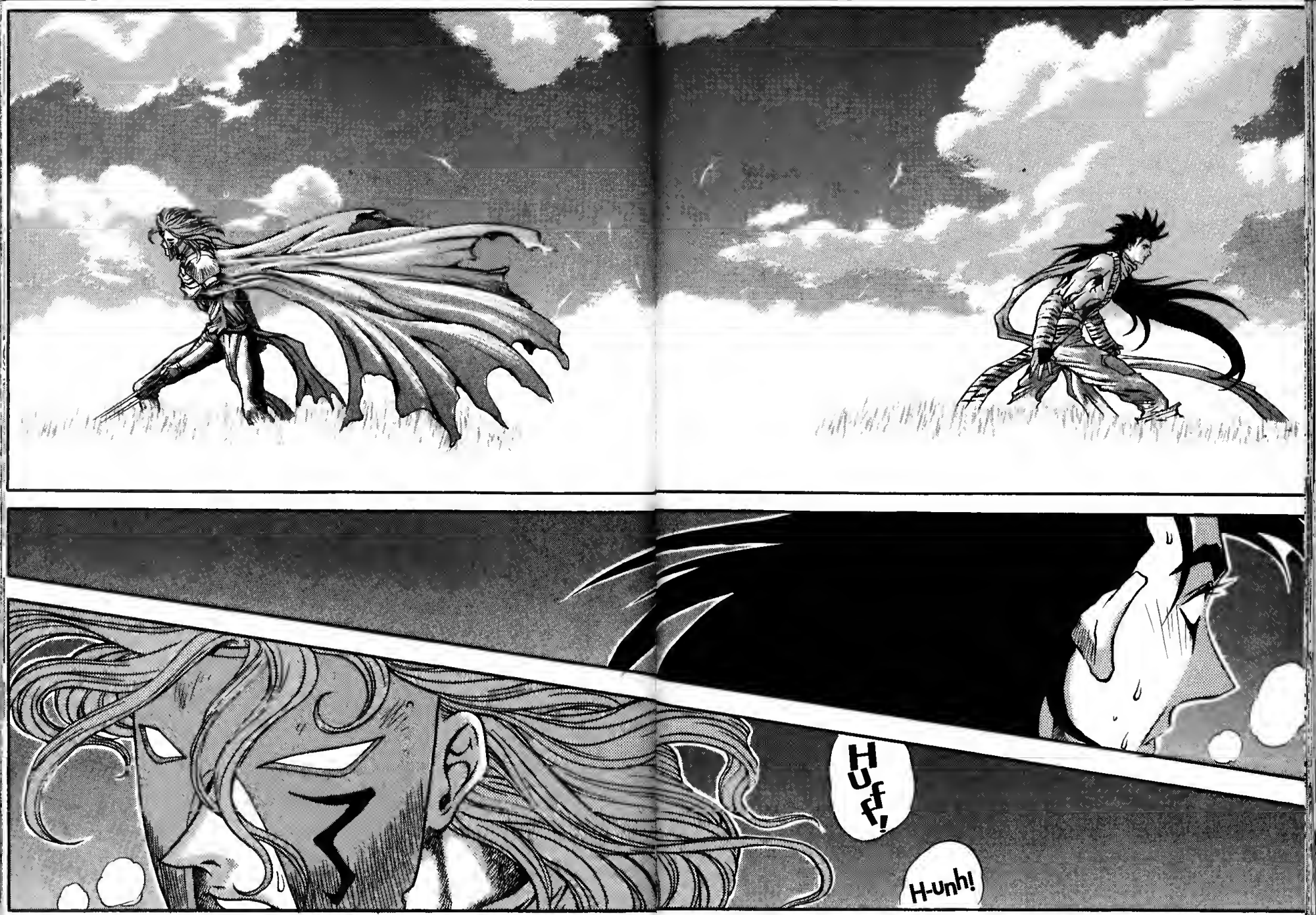
THE TIME...
TO STRIKE...
...IS
NOW!!
ONCE THE BLADE HAS CHOSEN A MASTER, IT WILL NOT CHOOSE ANOTHER...
...UNLESS THE CHOSEN ONE IS DEAD!!


THEREIN LIES THE BLADE'S ACHILLES HEEL, BOY!!
DON'T FEEL TOO BAD... YOU'VE HAD A GOOD RUN. BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE BLADE TO CHOOSE A MORE DESERVING HOST!!
KOU

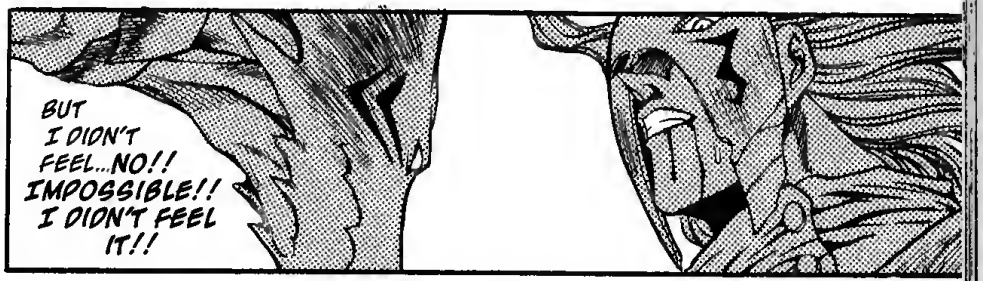

END OF

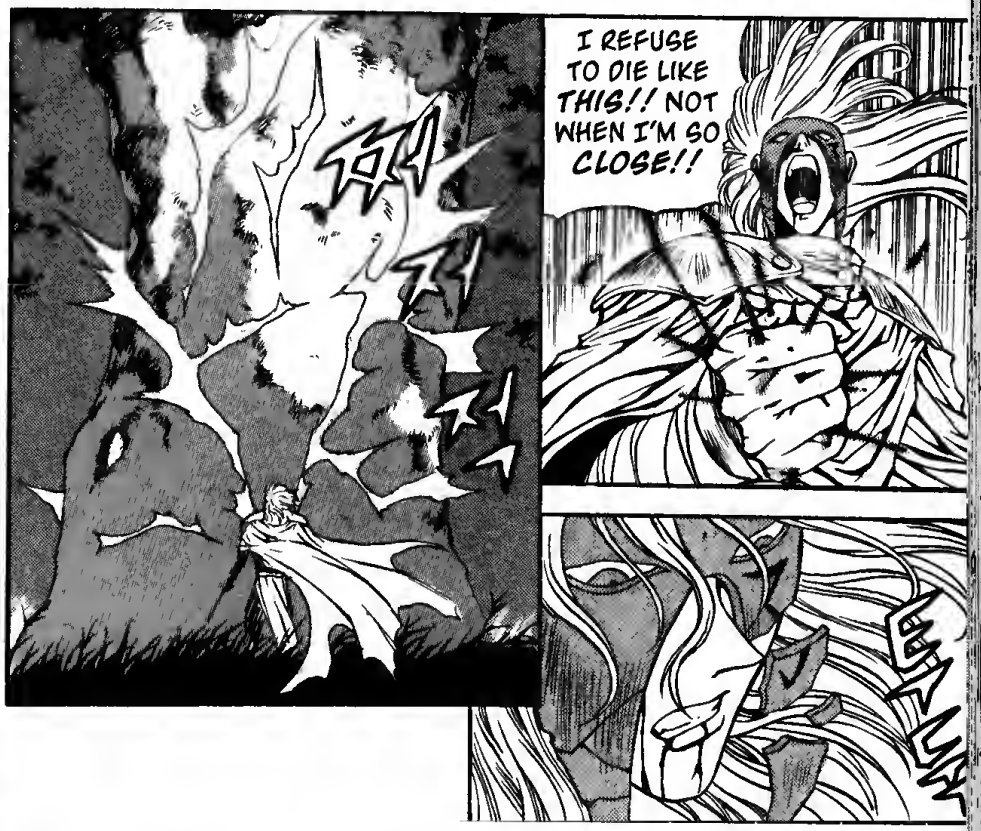
OH
OH


Huff!
H-unh!

HUH...UNH...

WHAT...?
B-BLOOD...?
MY BLOOD...?!


BUT I DIDN'T FEEL...NO!! IMPOSSIBLE!! I DIDN'T FEEL IT!!


I REFUSE TO DIE LIKE THIS!! NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE!!

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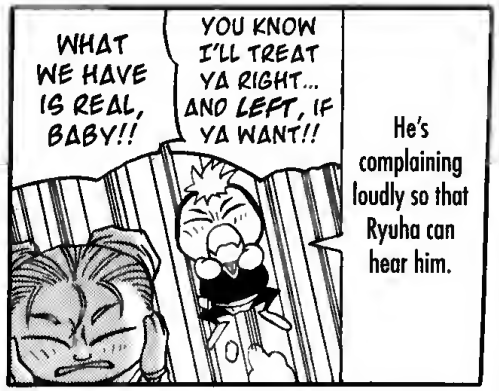
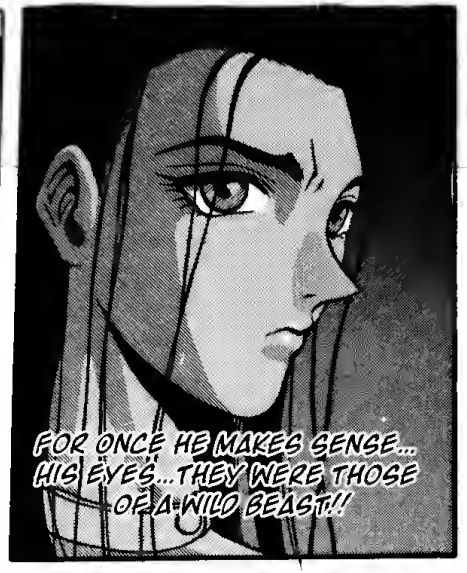
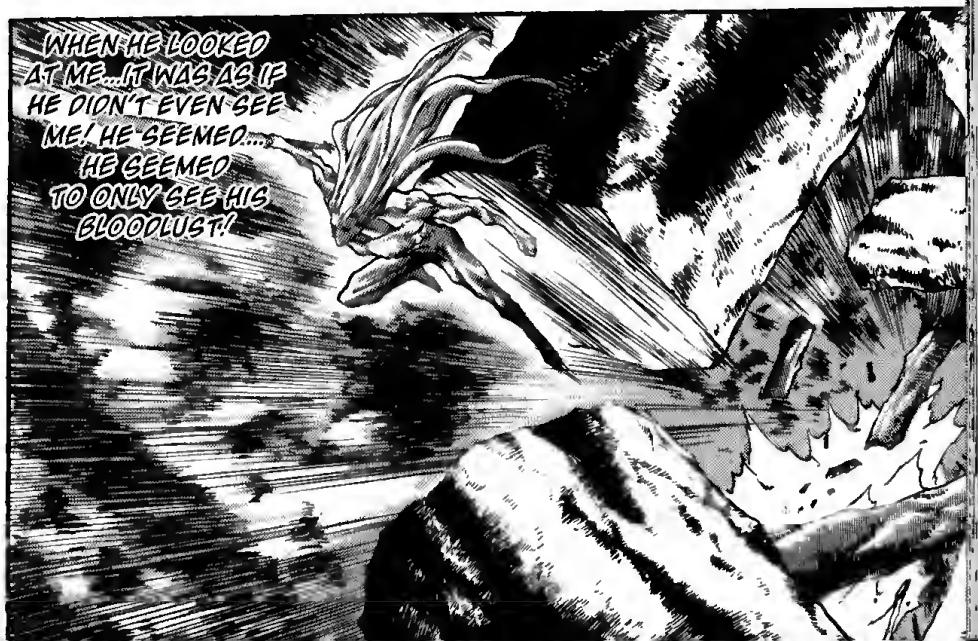
ALL I WANNA KNOW IS, WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THAT LONG-HAIRED POOF ANYWAY?!
I'M HALF THE MAN HE IS!!
NO, WAIT...THAT DIDN'T COME OUT RIGHT...


WHAT WE HAVE IS REAL, BABY!!
YOU KNOW I'LL TREAT YA RIGHT... AND LEFT, IF YA WANT!!
He's complaining loudly so that Ryuha can hear him.

I MEAN, C'MON, BABE...HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN...


FOR ONCE HE MAKES SENSE... HIS EYES...THEY WERE THOSE OF A WILD BEAST!!

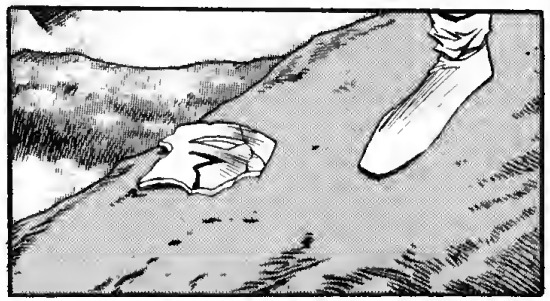

WHEN HE LOOKED AT ME...IT WAS AS IF HE DIDN'T EVEN SEE ME! HE SEEMED.... HE SEEMED TO ONLY SEE HIS BLOODLUST!

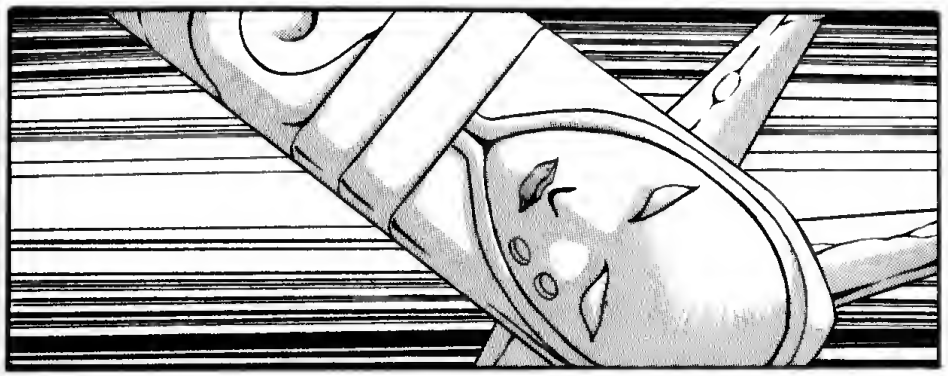
WHAT'S IMPORTANT ISN'T WHAT HE IS...BUT WHO'S SIDE HE'S ON.
EVERYONE... DEAD...
PRINCESS!
NO...!
CHAEHA IS DEAD... THE GENERAL... H-HE'S...
NO... HE CAN'T BE...!!
GENERAL WINTER!
NO...YOU CAN'T BE...

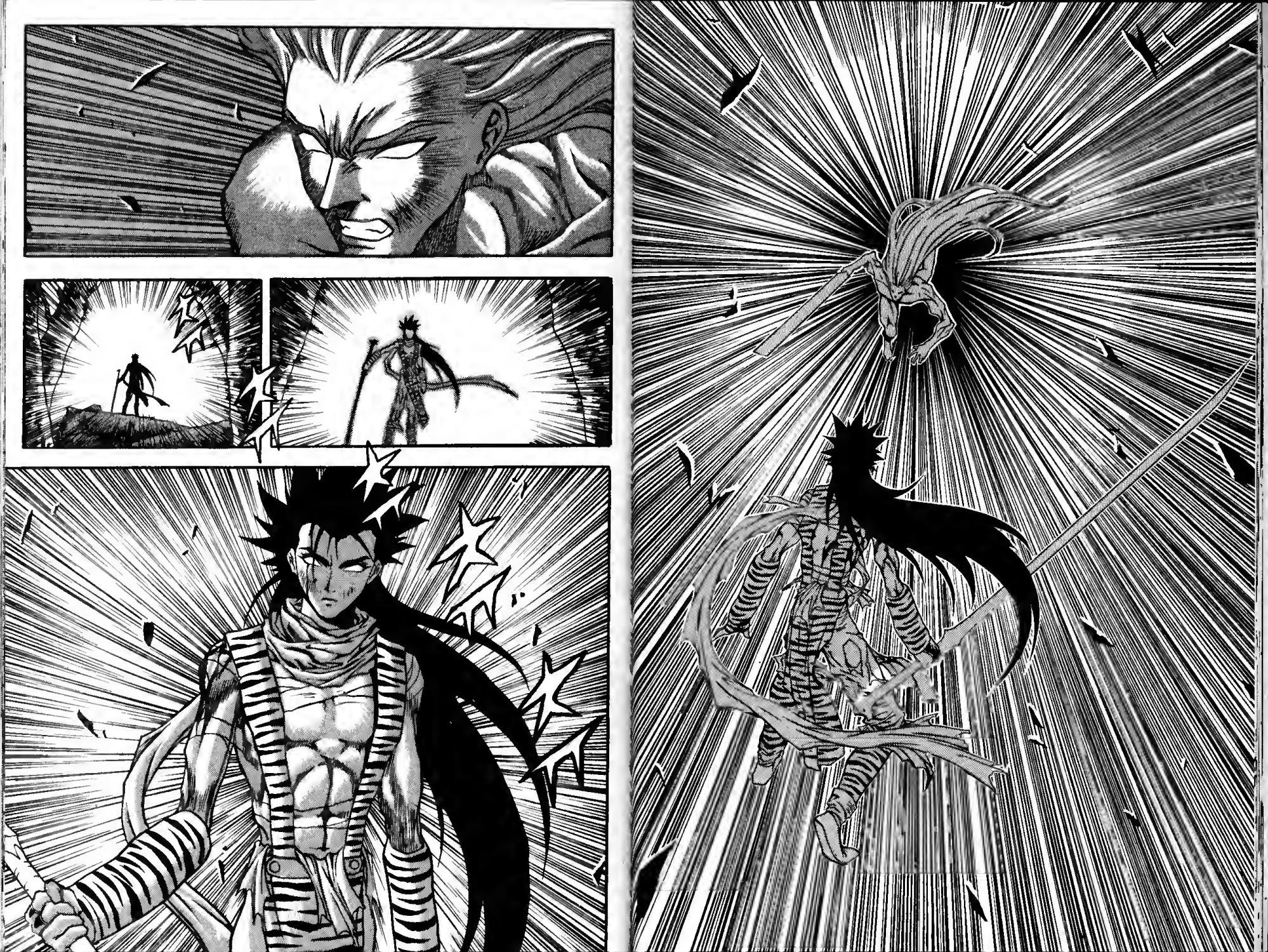
YOU CAN'T DIE ON ME! NOT LIKE THIS! YOU AND ME...WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FOREVER...
NO... NO!! THIS CAN'T HAPPEN!! YOU CAN'T DIE AND LEAVE ME!!

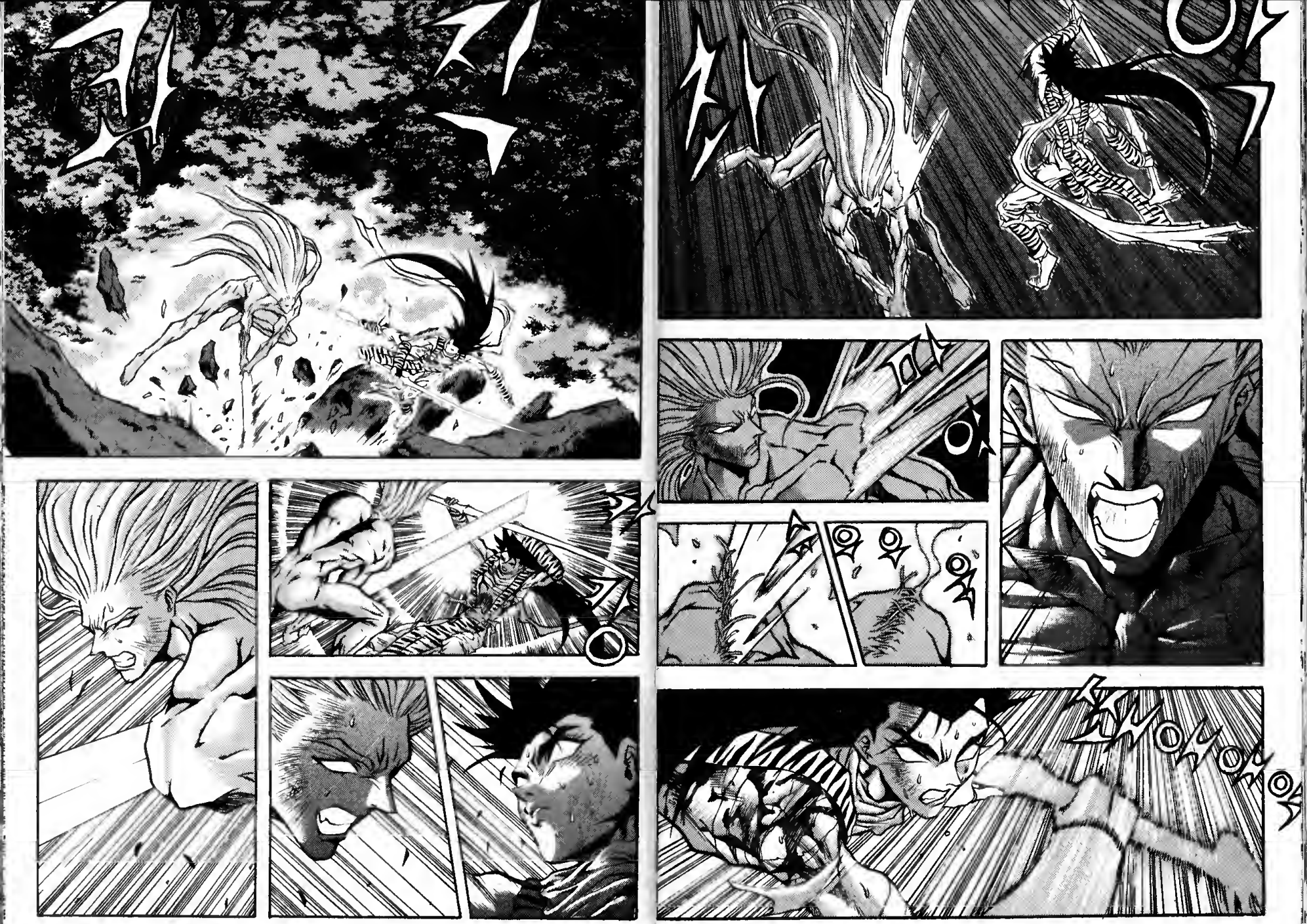
YOU CAN'T, YOU HEAR ME?!
YOU CAN'T!!

IS...IS HE REALLY DEAD...? LIKE...FOR REAL...?

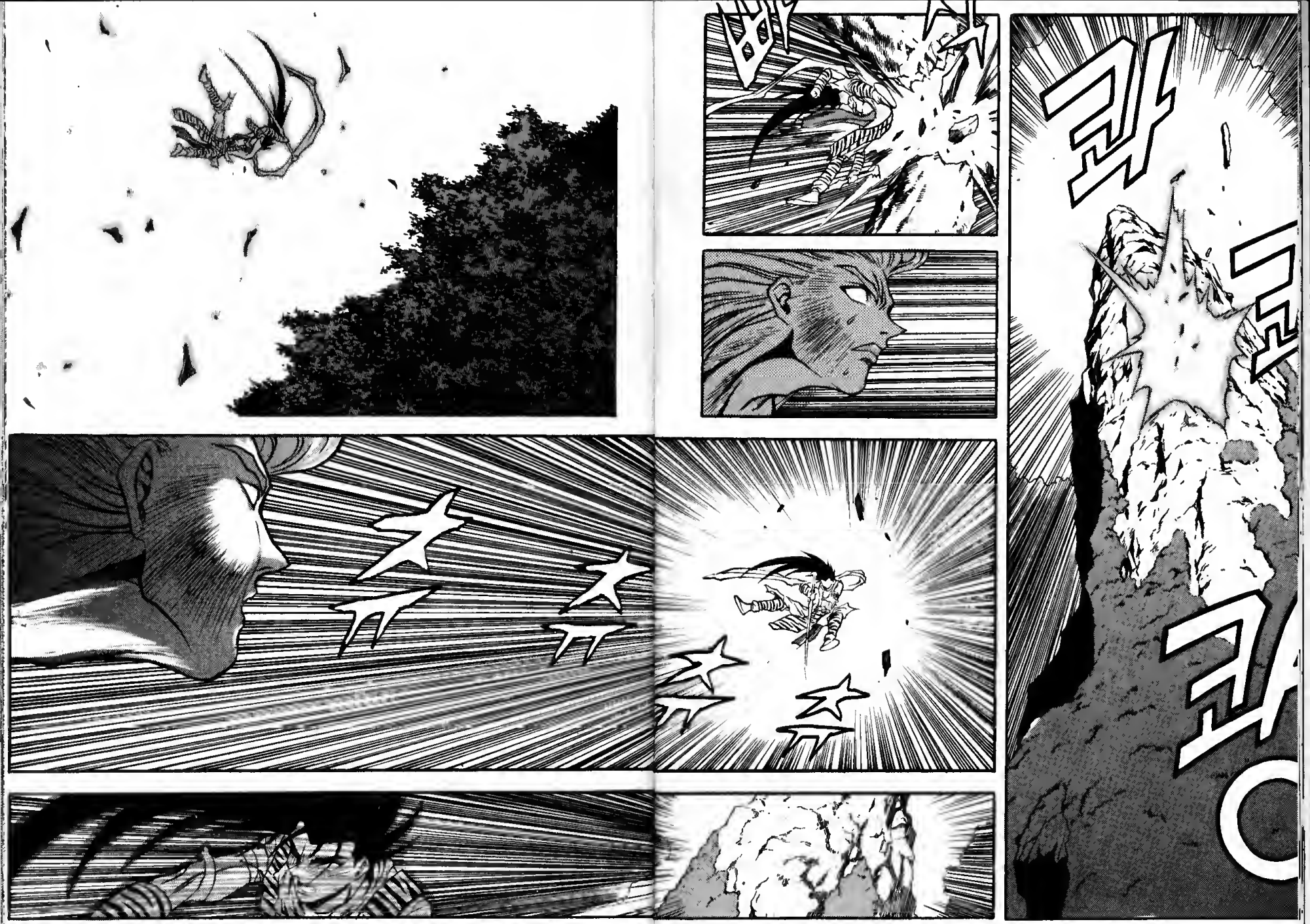


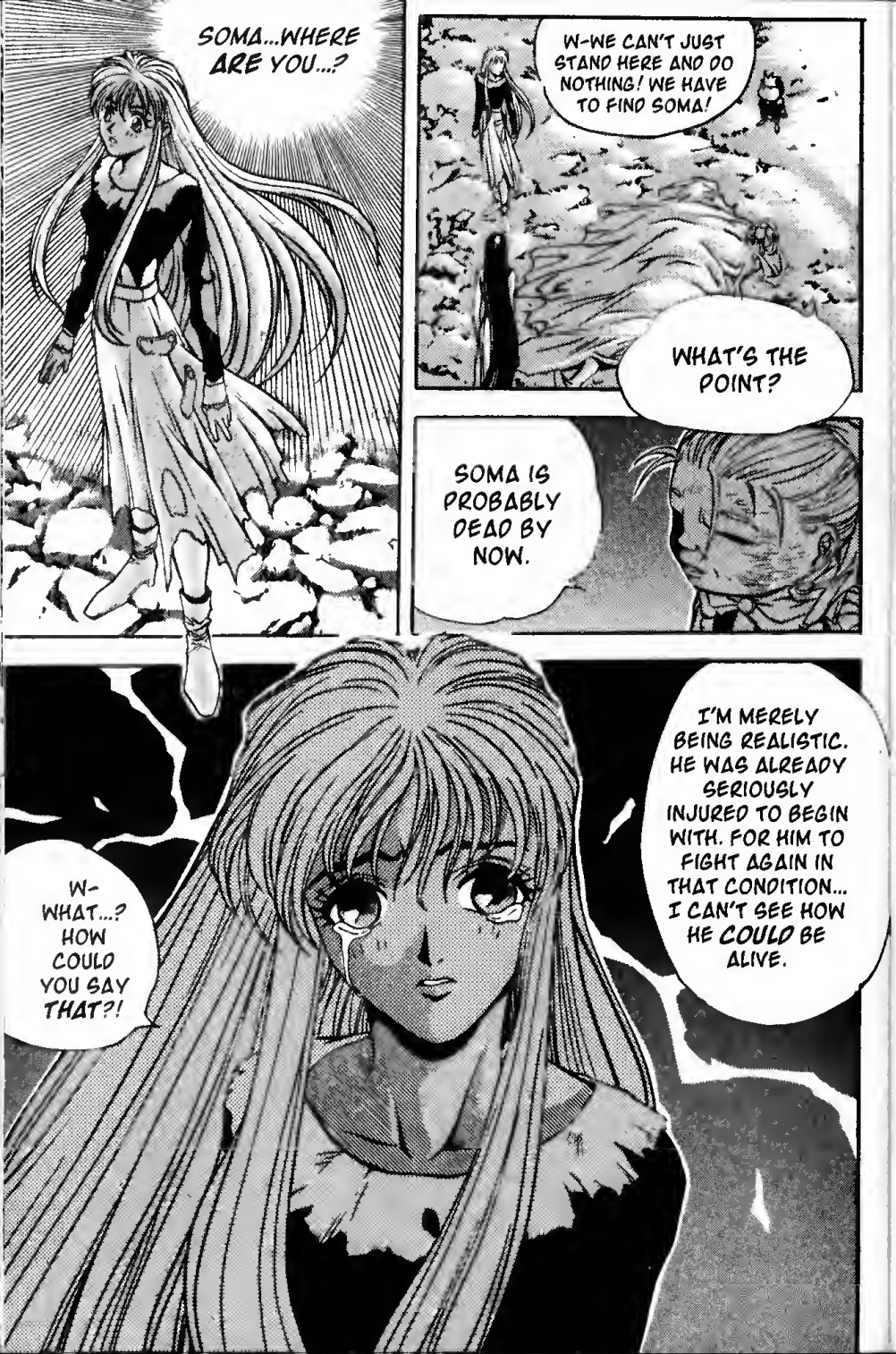




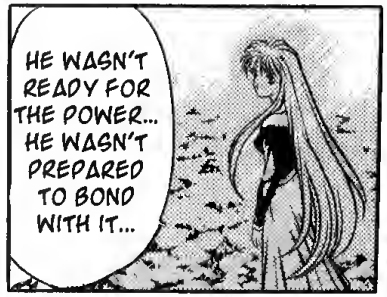


HURGH!




SOMA...WHERE ARE YOU...?
W-WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AND DO NOTHING! WE HAVE TO FIND SOMA!
WHAT'S THE POINT?
SOMA IS PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW.
W-WHAT...? HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?!
I'M MERELY BEING REALISTIC. HE WAS ALREADY SERIOUSLY INJURED TO BEGIN WITH. FOR HIM TO FIGHT AGAIN IN THAT CONDITION... I CAN'T SEE HOW HE COULD BE ALIVE.

SHUT UP!! JUST...SHUT UP!!
SOMA WILL NEVER DIE, YOU HEAR ME?! NEVER!!
JUST BECAUSE WE'VE SUFFERED A LOSS IS NO REASON TO GIVE UP HOPE!!
GO AHEAD... HIT ME. I DESERVE IT. THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I SHOULD HAVE NEVER GIVEN SOMA THE BLADE'S JOURNAL...IF HE HADN'T UNLOCKED ITS SECRETS, NONE OF THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED...

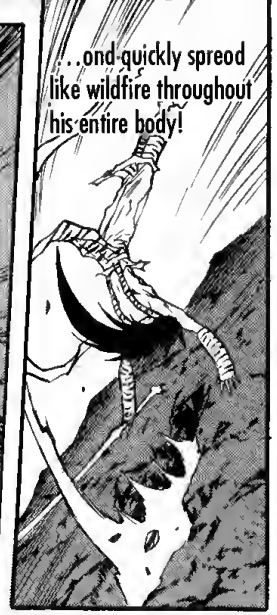

HE WASN'T READY FOR THE POWER... HE WASN'T PREPARED TO BOND WITH IT...

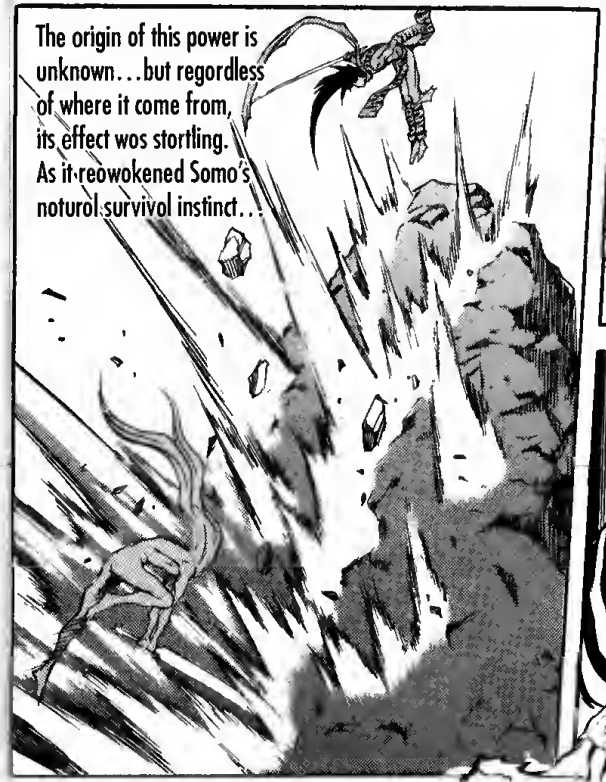
THAT SOUND...? IS SOMEONE...CALLING ME...?

YOU GUYS...DO YOU HEAR THAT?
HEAR WHAT?

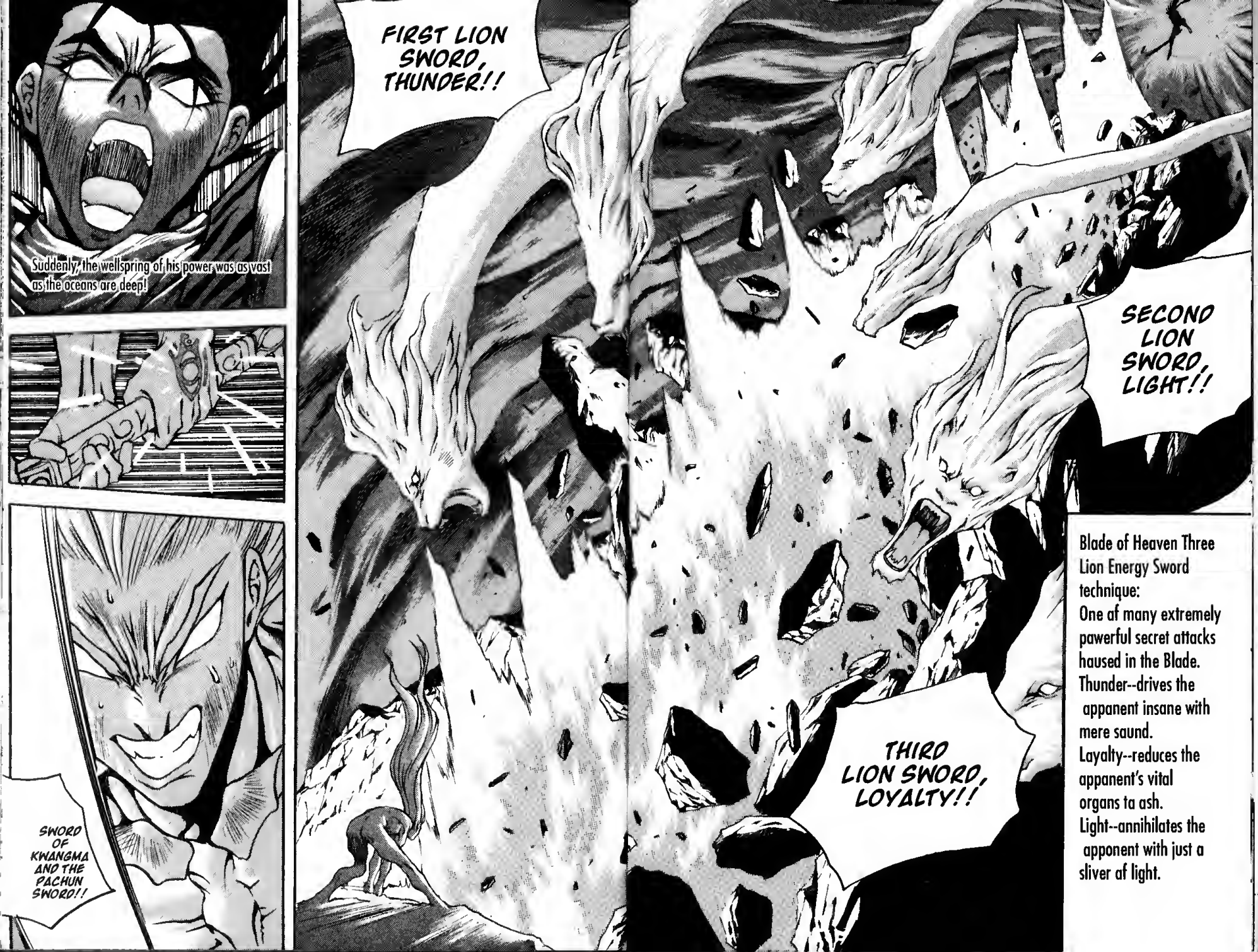
Much time had passed since Soma lost control of his free will...but as soon as the approaching danger registered in his body...

...an intense energy surged forth from the Blade to his fingertips!...


...and quickly spread like wildfire throughout his entire body!


The origin of this power is unknown...but regardless of where it came from, its effect was startling. As it reawakened Soma's natural survival instinct..!

...it also began to recharge his body!




Blade of Heaven Three Lion Energy Sword technique:
One af many extremely pawerful secret attacks haused in the Blade.
Thunder--drives the appanent insane with mere saund.
Layalty--reduces the appanent's vital organs ta ash.
Light--annihilates the apponent with just a sliver af light.

BLADE OF HEAVEN 8

END

IN THE NEXT BONE-CRUNCHING VOLUME OF

# BLADE OF HEAVEN

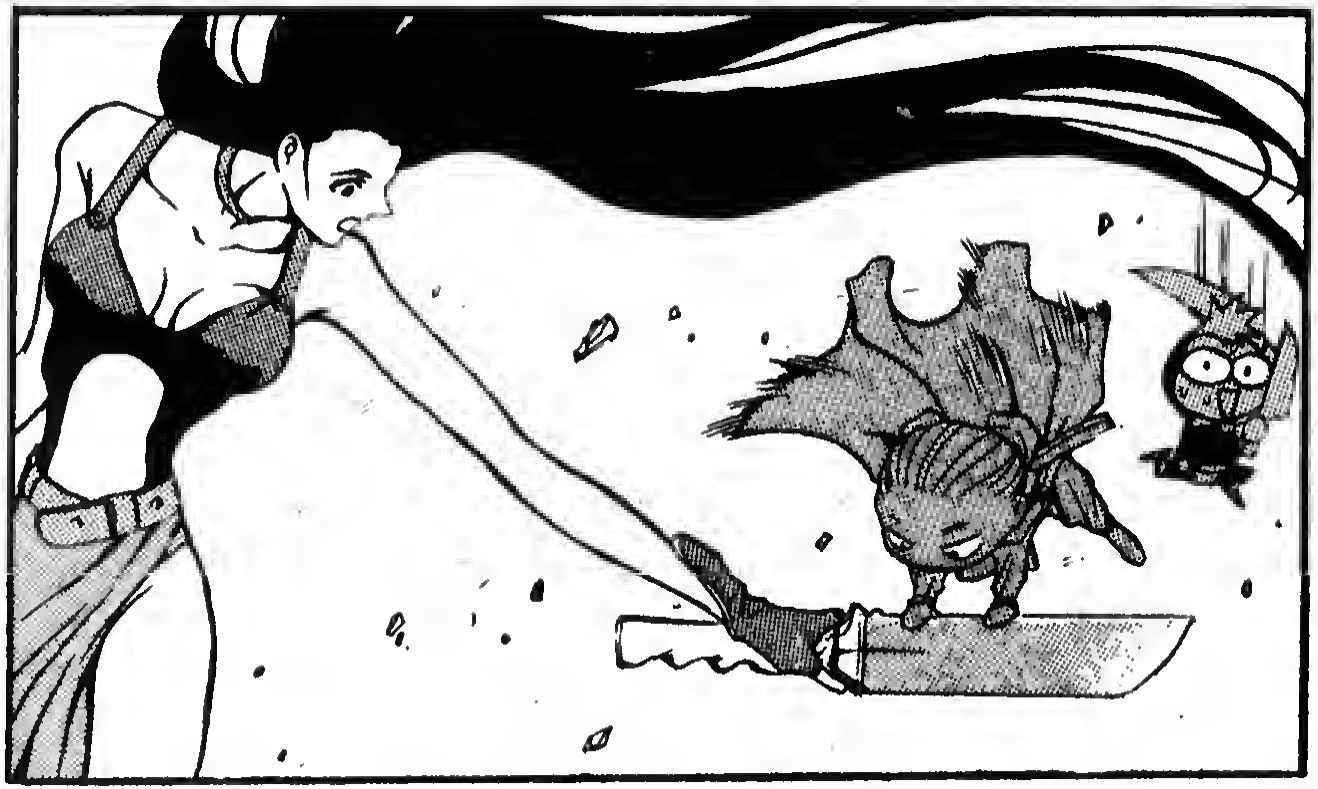
IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE, SOMA WAKES FROM HIS COMATOSE STATE, ONLY TO BE SHAKEN TO HIS CORE BY THE TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE AND UNBELIEVABLE DESTRUCTION THAT HAS OCCURRED SINCE HIS POSSESSION BY THE BLADE OF HEAVEN. SOMA'S GUILT PUSHES HIM INTO A NEARLY CATATONIC STATE, WHERE THE BLADE ONCE AGAIN GAINS CONTROL OVER HIM. INFLUENCED BY THE BLADE, THE GROUP NOW BEGINS SEARCHING FOR ITS SISTER PIECES. MEANWHILE, GRANNY STAYS BEHIND AND MAKES A SHOCKING DISCOVERY REGARDING THE LATE, GREAT GEN. WINTER...

GET READY TO RUMBLE IN

## BLADE OF HEAVEN VOLUME 4!

# *quick release*

*by*

## *Kick The Kitty*

*(and all lived happy ever after)*